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US coalition casualties down at year's end, but Afghan deaths up

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AJ McCarron looks to finish Alabama career strong in Sugar Bowl

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PICKING UP THE PACE

US forces step up ties with Afghan troops ahead of election

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

THEY called it "the jungle," a thicket of brush and canopy so dense that it concealed enemy fighters, spooking local police and army forces, who were loath to enter. Previous attempts to clear it failed after Afghan soldiers struck mines and took early casualties.

Then insurgents tried assassinating a prominent police chief, opening fire as he drove past the jungle on the region's

main highway. He turned to the U.S. for help, and in November, the commander of a brigade-size cavalry unit promised assistance for a clearing operation.

"We'll support with helicopters," Col. Douglas A. Sims, of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, told the police commander. "We'll be ready with medical evacuation."

His offer reflects a larger U.S. re-engagement with Afghan forces in recent months that runs counter to the trend of disengaging over the past year. Concerned about security before April's presidential election, U.S. commanders in Afghanistan's south have moved closer to Afghan police and army units they kept at arm's length only six months ago, conducting more combined patrols and providing assistance they previously tried to cut back on, including air support, medevac and surveillance.

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Soldiers with the 2nd Cavalry Regiment and the 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion conduct a partnered patrol with Afghan police in the desert of southern Afghanistan's Kandahar province just north of Forward Operating Base Pasab.

JOSHUA L. DeMOTT/Stars and Stripes

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I would rather die than make bad stuff for people, because I'm a terrible dishwasher and a terrible lover and a terrible pet owner and this is my only recourse to go to bed ... and feel like I did anything of merit."

— Dan Harmon, creator of the NBC's edgy "Community"

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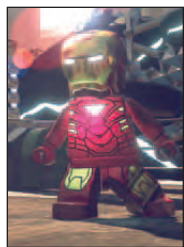
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5. Man accused of using fake ID to get security clearance to AFB

COMING TOMORROW

Video games

"Lego Marvel: Super Heroes"



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MILITARY

Pension cuts anger younger vets

By LORI MONTGOMERY
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — After 25 years of service, including a combat tour in Afghanistan, Lt. Col. Stephen Preston retired from the Army and began collecting a pension of nearly \$55,000 a year. The money made it possible for Preston to go back to college, get his MBA and embark on a second career in corporate strategy.

So it happened that Preston was sitting in his new office shortly before Christmas when he heard on the radio that he had become the latest target in Washington's war on spending.

"I'm not an angry man, but I was very, very angry," Preston, 51, said in a telephone interview from his home in Tampa, Fla. "This is a pact between the greater population of the United States and the fraction of people who served and sacrificed. If you didn't want to pay us what you promised us, then you probably shouldn't have promised it."

The plan to trim pension increases for working-age military retirees such as Preston is by far the most controversial provision in a bipartisan budget deal approved by Congress and signed last week by President Barack Obama.

The cut is small — a 1-percent-age-point reduction in the annual cost-of-living increase — but it has provoked outrage among veterans who argue that the country is reneging on a solemn pact. Even though lawmakers, especially in the GOP, fulminate about the need to cut the cost of federal health and retirement benefits, many have vowed to roll the cut back when Congress returns to work next week.

The authors of the budget deal, House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Senate Budget Committee Chairman Patty Murray, D-Wash., have already agreed to amend the provision to exempt disabled retirees and survivors of those killed in action, eliminating roughly 10 percent of the \$6 billion in savings projected over the next decade.

Ryan has resisted efforts to abandon the pension cut entirely, calling it a "modest" adjustment to a particularly generous pro-

gram — and therefore a more sensible choice than harder decisions that may lie ahead.

"I stand behind the need for reform," Ryan wrote in a Dec. 22 op-ed in USA Today. Noting that a special commission is due to make recommendations in May to reform the entire military compensation system, Ryan wrote, "That's why this reform does not take effect until the end of 2015 — it gives Congress ample time to consider alternatives."

Opponents say the policy retroactively penalizes a deserving group while doing nothing to contain the much larger cost of health and retirement benefits for the general public. Independent budget analysts note, however, that lawmakers have shied away from reductions in federal retirement benefits for any recipients — including changes to Social Security and Medicare



Ryan

included in Obama's most recent budget request — illustrating the enormous political difficulty of trimming the federal government's largest category of expenditures.

Military pensions have long been on the chopping block, in part because the Pentagon, like many government and private entities, is struggling to cover the cost of promises made to people who now typically spend long decades in retirement. In 2012, 2.3 million military retirees and survivors of those killed in action received about \$52 billion in payments, a nearly 50 percent increase over 2002, according to Defense Department actuaries.

Overall, military compensation — including health benefits and salaries paid to active-duty personnel — eats up roughly half the defense budget, a proportion that is steadily rising. In a speech in November, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel warned that "without serious attempts to achieve significant savings" in military compensation, "we risk becoming an unbalanced force."

'Let's not balance [the budget] by breaking the deal you have with me, who served, in order to provide for somebody who just showed up. You just don't do that.'

Retired Lt. Col. Stephen Preston
Army veteran

Military pensions would appear to be particularly ripe for reduction. Anyone who puts in 20 years can receive payments immediately and look forward to annual cost-of-living adjustments, or COLAs, for life. That means servicemembers who signed up at 18 could find themselves with a full pension — roughly half their active-duty paycheck — at 38. And the government finds itself doling out cash to former soldiers who have launched lucrative second careers, often with defense contractors that draw their profits from government coffers.

In 2010, as part of a sweeping proposal to rebalance the federal budget, an independent deficit-reduction commission appointed by Obama suggested eliminating COLAs for military retirees younger than 62.

In the budget deal they hammered out this month, Murray and Ryan took a less drastic approach, proposing to knock 1 percentage point off annual COLAs for working-age retirees. Under the provision, which takes effect in 2015, pensions will be recalculated at age 62 so retirees thereafter receive the same amount they would have if the reduction had never happened.

The provision accounts for a fraction of the \$85 billion in savings identified in the budget deal. Ryan has called it a reasonable adjustment to a program that benefits a tiny portion of military men and women, only 17 percent of whom serve long enough to qualify for a pension.

"If a serviceman enlisted at 18 and retired at 38, under this policy his lifetime benefit would be about \$1.7 million instead of \$1.8 million," Ryan wrote in USA Today. "For a servicemember who retired at the average military retirement age of 44, the dif-

ference would be smaller, about \$30,000 over his or her lifetime."

Opponents of the policy do not deny the need to overhaul military pensions, or military compensation in general. But they argue that changes should be made for future enlistees, not for people who have already served and planned their lives around promised benefits.

Just as troubling, opponents say, is the cavalier manner in which budget negotiators cherry-picked savings from the military to cover the cost of a small budget deal that solves none of the nation's biggest problems.

This agreement "is not an effort to deal with the entitlement problem," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., an advocate of broad entitlement reform who voted against the budget deal and is campaigning to overturn the military-pension provision. "This is an effort to single out one group of people and put a penalty on their benefits that you're not putting on anybody else. And this would be the last group we'd want to penalize, I think, not the first."

Preston, the retired soldier, agrees. He said he nearly retired from the military after 10 years but was talked into staying by a battalion commander who explained the wisdom of putting in 20. Then the nation went to war in Iraq and Afghanistan, and Preston said he felt an obligation to "stick it out a little longer."

"Those of us who make it to 25, 30 years, we deserve to get what we were promised," he said. "It isn't even really about the money. If we need to balance our budget, fine."

"But let's not balance it by breaking the deal you have with me, who served, in order to provide for somebody who just showed up," he said. "You just don't do that."

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MIDEAST



RAHMAT GUL/AP

A U.S. military wrecker carries away a vehicle that was damaged in a suicide car bombing on the Jalalabad-Kabul road in Kabul on Friday.

Casualty numbers mixed for 2013

Afghan forces' death toll mounts while US coalition losses fall to six-year low

BY GREG KELLER
AND RAHIM FAIEZ
The Associated Press

KABUL — The U.S.-led international forces in Afghanistan suffered the lowest number of casualties in the past six years in 2013, but Afghan security forces saw their casualties mount as they took the lead in the 12-year war against the Taliban.

The figures underline the dangers this nation still faces as the NATO-led mission nears its end in Afghanistan in 2014.

According to an Associated Press tally, NATO casualties fell

to 151 in 2013, down from 394 a year earlier. The U.S. bore the brunt of those attacks, with 118 deaths, down from 297 in 2012.

However, foreign troops still are targeted by insurgents. Just last week, a suicide bomber struck a convoy in Kabul, killing three NATO troops, including one American.

Casualties among the Afghan army and police rose to 2,767, up from 1,870 the year before. In June, the Afghan army and police took over control of the country's security from the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force, resulting in greater com-

bat losses with the insurgents.

Meanwhile Afghan civilians continued to bear the worst of the war's violence, with the United Nations recording 2,730 deaths and 5,169 wounded through the end of November, a 10 percent increase on a year earlier.

One significant change this year was a steep drop in the number of insider attacks, the so-called "green-on-blue" incidents in which Afghan security turn on their NATO partners. Last year, attacks such as this killed 53 coalition troops in 38 separate incidents. In 2013, there were 16 deaths in 10 separate insider attacks.

Maj. Gen. Joseph Osterman, director of operations for the coalition, said most of the credit for the lower insider attacks should go to the Afghan security forces.

"They put in much more robust screening processes, education processes and, at the local level, just awareness of soldiers who were potential 'green-on-blue' perpetrators," Osterman said.

The Defense Department says a total of 1,788 Americans have been killed in action in Afghanistan since the U.S. invasion in 2001 through Dec. 30. Some 19,541 have been wounded.

US Embassy in Kabul on the defensive over fraud reports

BY DAVID ZUCCHINO
Los Angeles Times

KABUL — The reports are cranked out with relentless efficiency: blistering tales of waste, fraud and abuse of American taxpayer-funded projects to rebuild Afghanistan.

The damning audits from the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction strike like missiles at the U.S. Embassy and military headquarters here. Trumpeted by an aggressive public relations effort, SIGAR findings cause heartburn among American diplomats and generals alike.

Saying they are sometimes unfairly targeted, those in the cross hairs are now seeking to more ef-

fectively highlight their efforts to rectify shortcomings.

"We've gotten better," said S. Ken Yamashita, director of program coordination at the embassy. "(But) I hesitate to say it's an email blast comparable to SIGAR's."

Yamashita and U.S. military officials agree there is chronic waste, fraud and abuse in Afghanistan — what SIGAR calls "endemic corruption." With a nod to their internal inspectors, they say they recognize the need for watchdogs over \$96.5 billion in taxpayer reconstruction money.

Yet often buried in the dense SIGAR reports are agencies' efforts to fix their problems, said Yamashita, who for two years directed the U.S. Agency for International Development here.

SIGAR gives agencies opportunities to respond to allegations, but Yamashita said that's often lost in SIGAR's public announcements and summaries.

"The initial (SIGAR) headline doesn't necessarily reflect all aspects of the final report," he said. "For whatever reason, sometimes our comments are not taken into account."

Many officials here have complained privately in recent months about SIGAR's aggressiveness and efforts to attract public attention.

"Let me get this straight," Philip LaVelle, a SIGAR spokesman, said of anonymous critics. "They're complaining we're telling the American people how their tax dollars are being spent? The public has a right to know and

we have a duty to tell them — and we intend to keep doing just that."

SIGAR Special Inspector General John F. Sopko said the efforts seem to be working. In a statement last month, he declared, "I just got back from Afghanistan and I'm encouraged that the leaders of CSTC-A (U.S. military command in Afghanistan) are taking oversight seriously."

"But it's clear that more needs to be done to protect American taxpayers as billions in U.S. aid flows directly to the Afghan government," he said.

SIGAR says its investigations since 2008 have produced 56 criminal convictions or guilty pleas, involving nearly three dozen American military members and civilians, plus 21 Afghans.

Jan. 1 is 'every' Afghan's birthday

BY KEVIN SIEFF
The Washington Post

KABUL — The first day of January isn't celebrated as the beginning of the year in Afghanistan, but since the American invasion, it's become a new kind of holiday — a de facto birthday for thousands of Afghans who don't know when they were born.

During protracted wars in the 1980s and '90s, the government didn't have a system in place to register births. Because identification cards and driver's licenses weren't standard in this impoverished nation, families saw no reason to record the exact dates. Government paperwork asked only for an approximate birthday on the Islamic calendar.

When the United States and its NATO allies arrived, they brought with them

a flurry of job opportunities, visa applications and websites that all required a specific birthday on the Roman calendar.

"Those of us who don't know when we were born selected January 1st," said a U.S. Army interpreter

named Tariq, who first wrote the date on his job application with the military and would repeat it when he applied for a visa, and whenever anyone asked. "It was very easy to remember."

In the digital age, the collective birthday has become something of an inside joke here, as young Afghans send each other messages to celebrate.

"Happy birthday to 30 friends ... whose birthdays are tomorrow on the first of January," Barat Ali Batoor, an Afghan refugee in Australia, wrote on Facebook.

"In two days, it's every Afghan's birthday," Mohammad Hassan-zai, an Afghan living in London, tweeted on Dec. 30.

Some worry that the lack of official birth registration could have serious implications.

"Birth registration is instrumental in safeguarding other human rights because it provides the official 'proof' of a child's existence," said a 2007 United Nations report on the topic, which singled out Afghanistan.

Those records are helpful in reuniting families after conflicts or natural disasters, as well as helping children apply for refugee status. It also makes it easier to conduct a national census — an enormous challenge here.

MILITARY

Pull-up training to stay same for female Marines

3-repetition standard delayed

BY JENNIFER HLAD
Stars and Stripes

The Marine Corps will not change the way it trains and prepares female recruits for a pull-up test despite the fact that more than half of the women who completed the program failed to do the number of pull-ups required, Marine officials said.

The current physical fitness test for women consists of a 3-mile run, sit-ups and a flexed arm hang, but the Corps had planned to change the upper-body strength test portion to a pull-up requirement beginning Wednesday, the start of the new year. Gen. James Amos, the commandant of the Marine Corps, recently decided to delay the implementation of the new requirement for women dur-

ing their annual physical fitness test in light of the statistics from boot camp.

The Marine Corps announced in December 2012 its intent to require pull-ups for women, and added pull-up-specific training to boot camp, and posted a workout program online for Marines to follow, said Col. Sean Gibson, a Marine spokesman.

Fifty-five percent of female recruits were unable to do the minimum of three pull-ups, but there will be no change.

"Current physical training of recruits has demonstrated positive results and is continuing as currently structured," he said.

Marine Corps Training and Education Command also will "continue to gather data and en-



KASEY PEACOCK/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

Lance Cpl. Katelyn Hunter does pull-ups at Camp Foster on Okinawa in December.

sure that female Marines are provided with the best opportunity to succeed," Gibson said.

Amos pushed back the requirement because he was concerned that an unacceptable number of female recruits, officer candidates and Marines would fail the test or leave the Corps because of it, Gibson said.

"The Commandant has no intent to introduce a standard that would negatively effect the current status of female Marines or their ability to continue serving in the Marine Corps," he said.

The first recorded history of physical fitness tests in the Marine Corps was in 1908, when President Roosevelt ordered that Marine staff officers would ride

horseback 90 miles and line officers would walk 50 miles over a three-day period, Gibson said. The first female PFT was introduced in 1969 and included a 120-yard shuttle run, a vertical jump, knee push-ups, a 600-yard run/walk and sit-ups, Gibson said. The test was changed to include the flexed arm hang, a 1.5-mile run and sit-ups in 1975.

Most of the current test and grading standards for the male and female PFTs were introduced in 1996, though the full sit-up was changed to a crunch in 1997.

The Marine Corps introduced a separate Combat Fitness Test in 2009.

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Bible among Fort Hood shooter's jail requests

The Associated Press

DALLAS — The former Army psychiatrist who killed 13 people at Fort Hood made several requests of the Texas jail where he was held before he stood trial, including one for a copy of the Bible and another for the name of the company that made the cheese in his sandwiches.

Nidal Hasan was held at the Bell County Jail for nearly 4 years before his August court-martial for the 2009 attack at the Army post. Hasan was convicted and sentenced to death.

Hasan filed 21 requests with the jail while awaiting trial, KXAS-TV in Dallas reported.

In April, Hasan asked: "Please tell me the name of the company that produces the white cheese on my sandwiches; also the type of cheese i.e. mozzarella."

Hasan is a Muslim who insisted on keeping a beard during his trial as an expression of his faith. John Galligan, his civilian attorney, said that Hasan likely was concerned about whether his food was being prepared according to Islamic dietary standards.

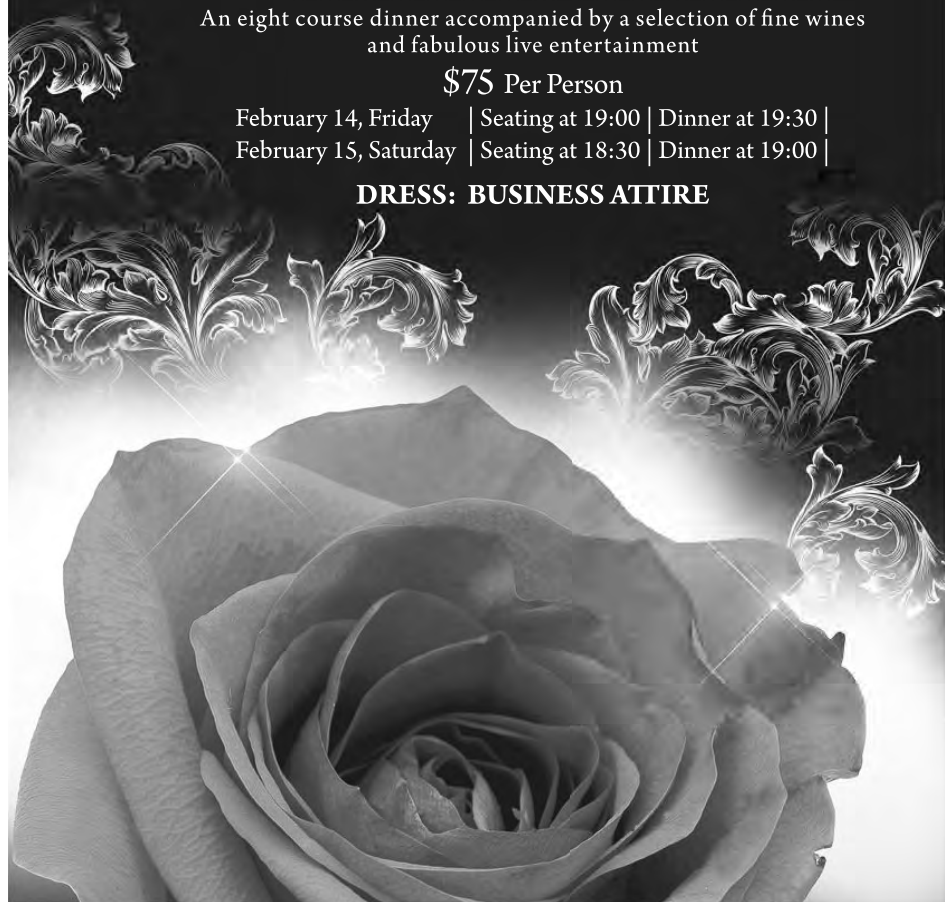
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THE NEW SANNO

MILITARY

‘Poachers’ profit off benefits for vets, widows

By CHAD GARLAND
Cronkite News Service

WASHINGTON — Business is booming in a multibillion-dollar government program that offers modest pensions to America’s neediest elderly wartime veterans — and that’s not necessarily a good thing.

Lawmakers, advocates and government officials say unscrupulous financial advisers — “pension poachers” — are taking advantage of veterans, selling unneeded services, making promises they can’t keep and helping hide assets for veterans who may then be unable to access their own funds if they need them.

The pitches, often framed as free seminars at elder-care facilities, could be diverting benefits to veterans the program was never intended to help and could create a backlog of claims applications, critics say.

“It’s a big scam,” said Ingrid Evans, a California lawyer who gets calls frequently from people in Arizona who say they are victims of these aggressive practices.

But it’s perfectly legal.

Known simply as “pension,” the Department of Veterans Affairs program has been around since 1979. It pays a financial benefit

to wartime veterans with low incomes who are elderly or totally and permanently disabled from injuries not related to military service. Vets and their spouses can get an additional aid and attendance, or A&A, allowance to pay for help with daily life tasks, like bathing, feeding, dressing and more.

The program was little-known and little-advertised as recently as a few years ago. When Debbie Burak began looking for help to pay for her parents’ elder care in 1996, she said VA representatives did not even acknowledge its existence when she asked.

But Burak, a Virginia resident who now runs a website providing free information on the pension program, said that in recent years, financial advisers have started approaching veterans with pitches “as slick as snake oil” on the program.

That has led to a boom in the program, which paid \$22,000 recipients nearly \$5 billion in 2012. While payouts grew only 1 percent from 1999 to 2007, they jumped 70 percent from 2007 to 2012. Claims for A&A benefits nearly doubled from 2007 to 2011.

Some financial advisers use “aggressive sales tactics” to pressure elderly veterans into buying

‘They use a lot of fear tactics, play on a sense that they (the veterans) served and should be taken care of.’

Monica Vacca
Monica Vacca, assistant director for the Federal Trade Commission’s Division of Marketing Practices

financial products and services they may not need, a Federal Trade Commission official said.

“They use a lot of fear tactics, play on a sense that they (the veterans) served and should be taken care of,” said Monica Vacca, assistant director for the FTC’s Division of Marketing Practices.

One of those tactics is to convince veterans with income and net worth too high for the program that they can qualify by hiding assets to look poorer.

A Government Accountability Office investigation in 2012 found that some advisers told undercover GAO investigators that they could hide as much as \$500,000 or \$1 million to bring a

veteran’s apparent worth below the pension-benefit threshold of about \$80,000.

In a statement to the Senate Special Committee on Aging, the VA’s Office of the Inspector General said it is not illegal for veterans to hide assets before they apply for the benefit. The pension application does not even ask the veteran to divulge information about transferred assets. The office said it investigated fewer than 20 cases about pension and A&A benefits from 2000 to 2012, and not one resulted in criminal prosecution.

The strategy may be legal, but it’s not risk-free. It creates what one advocate calls “the Medicaid time bomb.”

While the VA does not care if someone shelters assets, Medicaid does, requiring a five-year “look-back” at the time of application to look for asset transfers. A veteran who used the tactic to get the pension might be disqualified for Medicaid benefits, which “could be really ruinous,” Vacca said.

The strategy also can leave assets tied up where a veteran cannot get them when they’re needed.

“You start seeing things where they try selling a 90-year-old man a \$25,000 irrevocable trust or an annuity,” said Thom Stoddert, a Seattle-based veterans’ advocate

and former VA ratings specialist who focuses on A&A claims abuses.

Stoddert said advisers often fail to tell veterans at informational meetings that they may qualify for other state or federal benefits and programs without having to hide assets or invest in other financial products.

“They focus on just one benefit that the VA has, of many, and there is a financial reward for them,” Stoddert said of financial advisers. “When you see people trying to make veterans eligible for a program that was not intended for them, that’s the first red flag.”

Amy O’Rourke is president of the Cameron Group, a Florida-based geriatric care management company. She has attended some of the free seminars, but noted that “nothing comes for free” where pension poachers are involved.

“I went to some of the meetings, and what I observed was they were in the business to sell annuities, manage assets,” O’Rourke said.

With assets tied up by a poacher, and the potential for Medicaid delays as a result, veterans or their widows might be left without the “float” to pay for unforeseen expenses or increases in the cost of care, she said.

Celebrate the Week With Yokosuka MWR



Officers’ Club 243-5030
National Folic Acid Awareness Week
Monday-Friday, January 6-10 from 1100 to 1330 in Kosano Dining Room & Warehouse Restaurant
Special vegetarian plates to start your healthy beginning of the New Year.
Double Discount Steak Night
Saturdays from 1700 to 2100 in Kosano Dining Room
Satisfy yourself and save money when you select one of our quality Angus beef steaks, or when ordering one of the Chefs new dessert creations. \$2 discount on steaks/ \$1 on select dessert.
CPO Club 243-5506
CPO Club Dining room is open to all hands all the time!
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This comforting meal includes soup, Spanish rice, refried beans, vegetable, burritos, enchiladas, beef and seafood tacos, warm tortillas and our well known fiesta fajita action station!
Sunday Brunch
Sundays from 0900 to 1330
Great selections of hot entrees, delectable desserts, bountiful salads, action stations, roast carved meats, made to order omelet, crepes, hot cakes, impressive

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Club Alliance 243-3000
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Saturdays at 1800 in 3rd Floor Sports Bar
Try our weekly Texas Hold’em Tournament for your chance to win first place and be awarded 60% of the pot in an NEX Gift Card. Second will receive a free buy in for the next week, and third place winners will receive a great prize from Club Alliance. A free happy hour buffet will be available. \$30 buy-in for \$3000 in chips. Re-buys or extra chips are allowed for the first 30 minutes only for an additional \$1500 in chips for \$15. Six players minimum and must be 18 or older to play. Sign up at the 2nd floor cash cage or 3rd floor Sports Bar.
King of Yokosuka: No Curse Rap Battle
Friday, January 10 at 2000 in Sharky’s Bar
Absolutely no cursing – that’s to tell the real freestylers from the shower rappers! Each rapper gets 30 seconds to go hard in the paint. The best rapper will get a \$100 NEX gift card and a trophy. Beats provided by DJ Lock.
Garlic Night
Saturday, January 11 from 1700 to 2045 in Italian Gardens
Follow your nose to Italian Gardens! Steamed Garlic Mussels and Garlic Caesar Salad make a delicious dinner!

Club Takemiya 246-8077
Dinner Family Grab-N-Go Packages
Tired after work? Don’t have time to prepare dinner? Stop by the Club for family whole roasted chicken platters (\$22) and full (\$28) or half rack ribs sets(\$18) which include mashed potatoes or mac-n-cheese, coleslaw and breadsticks for four! Chicken and ribs available a la carte as well!
January: National Blood Donor Month
Donate blood – save lives and money! Show us your “I donated” sticker and receive \$1 off the dessert of your choice with purchase of lunch or dinner entrée.
Negishi Club 242-4151
Trivia Day
Saturday January 4
Give it a go and try your luck at various trivia questions! Draw a question from the trivia pot and if you answer the question correctly, you could win up to 10% off your meal!
Fun & Free Friday
Fridays from 1900 to 2100 in Negishi Club
Enjoy our free finger food while singing your favorite karaoke tunes, all free-of-charge. Want more? Play some free billiards. For all of you fun lovers, virgin cocktails are available as well as weekly drink specials!

NATION

Justice blocks law's birth control provision



NELL REDMOND/AP

A spinal problem left Howard Kraft, of Lincolnton, N.C., unable to work but he has health insurance because federal law now forbids insurers from denying coverage to people with existing health problems.

Health law cause for joy despite concerns

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — This could be the year that things finally turn around for President Barack Obama's health care law. Yet it could start with another round of glitches that vex consumers and leave Republicans crowing, "We told you so."

The law's major benefits take effect with the new year, along with an unpopular insurance mandate and the risk of more nerve-racking coverage disruptions.

Big improvements are in store for some, including Howard Kraft, of Lincolnton, N.C. A painful spinal problem left him unable to work as a hotel bellman. He's got coverage because federal law now forbids insurers from turning away people with health problems.

"I am not one of these people getting a policy because I'm being made to," Kraft said. "I need one to stay alive."

What's good for millions like Kraft is secured through what others see as an imposition: requiring virtually every American to get covered, through an employer, a government program or direct purchase of a plan.

The consumer-facing side of the HealthCare.gov website appears to be largely fixed — with 2.1 million enrolled through federal and state websites. But on the back end, insurers say they are still receiving thousands of erroneous sign-ups

from the government.

That means early in the year insured patients could go for a medication refill — or turn up in the emergency room — only to be told there is no record of their coverage.

One of the main worries is over certain error-tainted enrollment records that insurers call "orphans" and "ghosts."

"Orphans" are sign-ups that the government has a record of, but they do not appear in insurer systems. Insurers say those customers never left the government's "orphanage" to "go and live" with the carrier they selected.

"Ghosts" are new customers that the insurer does have a record of, but whose information mysteriously does not appear in the government's computers.

The Obama administration says the rate of such errors has been reduced dramatically, and insurers agree. The catch is that the volume of sign-ups has surged in the meantime, which means even with a lower error rate the number of problem cases keeps growing. And there is no automated way to clear up mistakes quickly.

Anticipating disruptions, major drug store chains like CVS and Walgreens have announced they will help customers who face coverage glitches, even providing temporary supplies of medications without insisting on up-front payment. Many smaller independent pharmacies are also ready to help.

By **JESSE J. HOLLAND**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Only hours before the law was to take effect, a Supreme Court justice on Tuesday blocked implementation of part of President Barack Obama's health care law that would have forced some religion-affiliated organizations to provide health insurance for employees that includes birth control.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor's decision came after a flurry of efforts by Catholic-affiliated groups from around the nation. Those groups had rushed to the federal courts to stop Wednesday's start of portions of the Affordable Care Act.

Sotomayor acted on a request from an organization of Catholic nuns in Denver, the Little Sisters of the Poor Home for the Aged. Its request for an emergency stay had been denied earlier in the day by a federal appeals court.

The government is "temporarily enjoined from enforcing against applicants the contraceptive coverage requirements imposed by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act," Sotomayor said in the order. She gave government officials until 10 a.m. Friday to respond to her order.

The law requires employers to

provide insurance that covers a range of preventive care, free of charge, including contraception. The Catholic Church prohibits the use of contraceptives. That was not acceptable, said their lawyer, Mark L. Rienzi.

"The Little Sisters are an order of Catholic nuns whose religious faith leads them to devote their

Justice Sonia Sotomayor's decision came after a flurry of efforts by Catholic-affiliated groups from around the nation.

lives to caring for the elderly poor. Not surprisingly, they have sincere and undisputed religious objections to complying with this Mandate," Rienzi said.

The Obama administration crafted a compromise, or accommodation, that attempted to create a buffer for religiously affiliated hospitals, universities and social service groups that oppose birth control. The law requires insurers or the health plan's outside adminis-

trator to pay for birth control coverage and creates a way to reimburse them.

For that to work, the nuns would have to sign a form authorizing their insurance company to provide contraceptive coverage, which would still violate their beliefs, he said.

"Without an emergency injunction, Mother Provincial Loraine Marie Maguire has to decide between two courses of action: (a) sign and submit a self-certification form, thereby violating her religious beliefs; or (b) refuse to sign the form and pay ruinous fines," he said.

The White House did not comment on the order Tuesday night. Sotomayor issued the order a few hours before leading the final 60-second countdown and pushing the ceremonial button to drop the New Year's Eve ball in New York's Times Square.

A spokeswoman for the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, the lead counsel for the Little Sisters of the Poor, said the group was delighted by Sotomayor's order. "The government has lots of ways to deliver contraceptives to people," Emily Hardman said in a statement. "It doesn't need to force nuns to participate."



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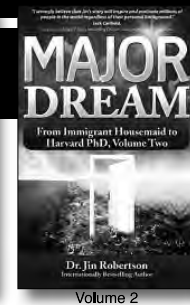
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NATION



TINA FINEBERG/AP

Welcoming the new year

Revelers take part in the festivities in New York's Times Square shortly after midnight on New Year's Day Wednesday.

Swearing-in marks NYC mayor's unlikely triumph

By JONATHAN LEMIRE
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Twelve years ago, Bill de Blasio attended New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's inauguration as a newly-minted city councilman, unknown to most outside his Brooklyn district and a small circle of political operatives.

He is now Bloomberg's successor, elected by a record margin, supported by a former — and perhaps a future — U.S. president, and hailed as the face of a progressive movement that pledges a significant realignment of the nation's largest city.

De Blasio's improbable climb, which included a stint in an obscure public watchdog post and a stunning political comeback last summer, was to reach its pinnacle at noon on a cold New Year's Day when he was to be sworn in by former President Bill Clinton.

When de Blasio's completed the oath, the second he'd have taken in 12 hours, he would become the first Democratic mayor of New York since 1993 and be poised to enact sweeping changes to a city that became safer and cleaner than ever yet more economically divided during Bloomberg's 12 years in office.

The inauguration was expected to be a joyous day for city Democrats, who outnumber Republicans in the city by a margin of 6-to-1 but have been shut out of power since David Dinkins left office two decades ago.

The party's ascension was underscored by the presence of Clinton and his wife, former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who would be a White House favorite if she runs in 2016.

Both Clintons have ties to de Blasio. The new mayor worked for the former president's administration in the Department

of Housing and Urban Development — under now-New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo — and he helped manage Hillary Clinton's successful 2000 U.S. Senate campaign. De Blasio and his wife, Chirlane McCray, are also frequently compared to the Clintons since McCray has long been considered the new mayor's most powerful, if informal, adviser.

McCray stood alongside her husband when he emerged from their modest Park Slope home at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday. Joined by their two children, they stood on a makeshift podium as de Blasio took the oath of office from state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman.

The new mayor, the 109th in the city's history, briefly thanked the crowd and pledged that his work would begin immediately.

"I want to thank you for having brought us to this moment," he said.

Expiring tax breaks result in uncertainty

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In an almost annual ritual, Congress is letting a package of 55 popular tax breaks expire at the end of the year, creating uncertainty — once again — for millions of individuals and businesses.

Lawmakers let those tax breaks lapse almost every year, even though they save businesses and individuals billions of dollars. And almost every year, Congress eventually renews them, retroactively, so taxpayers can claim them by the time they file their tax returns.

No harm, no foul, right? After all, taxpayers filing returns in the spring won't be hurt because the tax breaks were in effect for 2013. Taxpayers won't be hit until 2015, when they file tax returns for next year.

Not so far. Trade groups and tax experts complain that Congress is making it impossible for businesses and individuals to plan for the future. What if lawmakers don't renew the tax break you depend on? Or what if they change it and you're no longer eligible?

"It's a totally ridiculous way to run our tax system," said Rachelle Bernstein, vice president and tax

counsel for the National Retail Federation. "It's impossible to plan when every year this happens, but yet business has gotten used to that."

Some of the tax breaks are big, including billions in credits for companies that invest in research and development, generous exemptions for financial institutions doing business overseas, and several breaks that let businesses write off capital investments faster.

Others are more obscure, the benefits targeted to film producers, racetrack owners, makers of electric motorcycles and teachers who buy classroom supplies with their own money.

A deduction for state and local sales taxes benefits people who live in the nine states without state income taxes. Smaller tax breaks benefit college students and commuters who use public transportation.

The annual practice of letting these tax breaks expire is a symptom a divided, dysfunctional Congress that struggles to pass routine legislation, said Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., a member of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee.

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MILITARY

Pace: US using assets more to aid Afghanistan forces until time to pull out

FROM FRONT PAGE

Several commanders, interviewed in October and November, said the new tempo caught them by surprise, with many expecting a slower deployment focused on the logistics of withdrawing U.S. troops and infrastructure.

"The mission we have is much more aggressive," said Col. Matthew Lewis, of the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, a helicopter unit assigned to several provinces in southern Afghanistan. "Attack the [insurgent] networks, find the caches and enable the Afghans in our partnership to get after it."

Increasing distance

Only a year ago, the NATO coalition began to distance itself from Afghan forces. Units moved out of shared buildings and operations centers, and advisers began refusing requests for materiel they had provided readily in the past, from fuel to auto parts and field gear. Commanders, meanwhile, tightened rules regarding use of so-called military enablers, or capabilities like medevac and close air support, for Afghan forces in the field.

The relationship between coalition troops and Afghan forces was changing as the former decreased in size and the latter assumed the lead on security operations in the country. U.S. advisers and commanders said that Afghans needed to develop their own systems to field materiel and to find alternatives to many of the services the coalition had provided. They debated whether the tools they shared were "Afghan-sustainable" — in other words, capable of being maintained, purchased and used after the withdrawal of coalition combat forces by the end of 2014.

A spate of insider attacks — in which Afghans in uniform turned their guns on their foreign co-combatants — also encouraged coalition forces to distance themselves. Sixty-two foreign troops were killed by individuals in Afghan uniform in 2012, spurring tighter regulations over shared Afghan-coalition activities and space.

The physical distance between coalition and Afghan troops grew throughout last winter and into the summer as coalition troops moved off the small, often remote outposts they shared with Afghan units and onto larger bases where they had less contact with their counterparts.

In Germany, in the spring, Sims' regiment anticipated less involvement with Afghans as it trained for a summer deployment in Kandahar province. Securing



PHOTOS BY JOSHUA L. DEMOTTS/Stars and Stripes

Sgt. Charles Smith, with 3rd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, takes part in a partnered patrol in October with the Afghan Uniformed Police near Forward Operating Base Pasab in Kandahar province.



Afghan Uniformed Police speak with farmers harvesting onions in the Zhari district of Afghanistan's Kandahar province in October.

For more photos of Afghan and U.S. forces collaborating, go to stripes.com/go/patrol

transition.

Afghan forces suffered heavy casualties and loss of some terrain during the 2013 fighting season. Coalition assistance would be available only for a limited time as foreign forces withdrew. Using, instead of withholding, such support was seen as a way of encouraging Afghans and chipping away at insurgents emboldened by the U.S. withdrawal.

"We might as well keep using our assets up until the time that we have to pull them out in order to build the space for them to continue increasing their capacity" is how Smith described the change in thinking.

Lewis, the 1st CAB commander, said he expected a deployment that resembled the tail end of operations in Iraq, where missions slowly petered away.

"That is not what I walked into," he said. "When we (assumed command) in September, I mean, in the first month, we must have had about 100 kinetic attacks — our aircraft delivering munitions onto something."

On the ground, U.S. platoons began to re-establish relationships with nearby Afghan police units and to make patrols together, with mixed results. In Arghandab, one police checkpoint lacked enough officers to go on a foot patrol with the U.S. platoon, despite the platoon's having called ahead to

the commander. In Zharay, to the west, a police commander came with four of his men, although all seemed to lose interest halfway through the patrol.

Smith's squadron also worked with Afghans for one of the regiment's first major clearance operations, an effort to move an insurgent cell away from a U.S. outpost that was to be handed over to local forces. His squadron provided the local commander with intelligence and surveillance, as well as route clearance. The Afghan unit still went in first, led by its eager commander, who told Smith he had many other operations they could collaborate on.

Effect on transition

Some question whether the regular use of U.S. tools might make for a rockier transition when the coalition leaves. Lt. Col. Jeff Klotz, who runs the U.S. aid station on 3rd Squadron's base, coordinates many of the medevac flights that take Afghan patients to a nearby hospital. Medevac is one of the military services that the coalition has continued supplying during its drawdown.

"The negative to that is they're not forced to do it on their own," Klotz said.

Smith said Afghans have shown they aren't as reliant on U.S. assistance as many say.

"We haven't had any cases where an Afghan unit has said, 'Hey, we're not going to do this unless we're guaranteed American [casualty evacuation],' " Smith said. "Or, 'We're not going to go out and patrol unless we get [intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance] from the Americans.'"

In Shah Wali Kot, an expansive region where insurgents move from mountains south into Kandahar, Bacha Khan, the prominent police commander and local power broker, appeared to view the U.S. military as an alternative to an Afghan army that has shown little appetite to leave its local base.

He asked Sims for something more than the enablers — U.S. soldiers to help clear the jungle. Sims, who worked with Khan during a prior deployment, flatly refused. The U.S. would support, he said, but it would no longer take the lead.

"I could clear the jungle today with my brigade," he said. "But how many times am I going to have to clear the jungle before it's done by the Afghan army and police?"

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MIDEAST

Taking charge of the fight

With US help, Afghan forces prepare to face elusive enemy

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

FORWARD OPERATING BASE AZIZULLAH, Afghanistan — With its stripped buildings and empty barracks, the American side of this 3-year-old outpost near Kandahar was on the cusp of turnover to the Afghan army in late October.

One problem remained: what to do about the insurgents next door.

An effort to clear the enemy fighters during a daylong operation with Afghan forces underlined the tenacity of an enemy determined to hold its ground as U.S. forces pull back and local police and soldiers take their place.

Azizullah is a collection of concrete T-walls, concertina wire and hard-floored tents just north of Highway 1 in the Maiwand district of Kandahar province — an important route for both government forces and the insurgents trying to undermine them. Built as U.S. forces surged in southern Afghanistan, the base held a full U.S. battalion at its height, but by this year it housed just a single, company-sized unit.

That unit, K Troop, 3rd Squadron, was responsible for closing the base. It also partnered with a local Afghan army battalion and its eager commander, Saidzainudin Rohani. Rohani, who wore a thick moustache and a giant, turquoise ring, had an easy rapport with U.S. commanders. Sitting before a map of the district one day, he recounted to Lt. Col. Eric Smith, commander of 3rd Squadron, where his men died securing checkpoints and outposts across Maiwand.

"We didn't get these locations by ourselves freely," he said. "We lost soldiers, we lost men."

"We can't allow it to slip back," Smith responded.

And so the Americans went to Rohani when their surveillance balloons above the outpost found the insurgent network south of

Highway 1. They watched men dig weapons out of the surrounding farm fields and carry them into the compounds, and they saw them fiddle with objects in the ground several times each day, as though they were activating a perimeter of mines in the evening and deactivating it in the morning.

Ignoring U.S. warnings, Rohani immediately sent his men toward the compounds. That sparked a firefight that ended in a stalemate and left an Afghan soldier with minor wounds. The enemy fighters fled when members of K Troop arrived in their Stryker armored vehicles to help. Soon after, the fighters were observed digging in the surrounding fields once again.

The Americans and Afghans regrouped. This time, they would formulate a full clearance operation, with blocking positions to capture the fleeing insurgents.

They planned routes of entry and exit and phase lines. U.S. soldiers and Afghan police would block the perimeter as an Afghan company cleared several mosques and buildings where militants had been seen carrying weapons. K Troop commander Capt. Kevin Carroll and one of his platoons would trail behind.

Rohani encouraged his men before they set out the next morning.

"You've already been in this area," he said. "You know where to go."

Smith warned the group that enemy fighters would try to blend into their surroundings.

"They'll start to fight until they see how many people we have," he said. "Then they'll drop their weapons and pretend to be farmers or try to escape."

Soldiers and police gathered in place before dawn, and Rohani's men marched south as the sun peeked above the horizon. What happened next was caught by surveillance balloons and watched in real time by Americans and



PHOTOS BY JOSHUA L. DeMOTTS/Stars and Stripes

Afghan soldiers cross Highway 1 near Forward Operating Base Azizullah, Afghanistan, during a partnered clearing operation in October.



Afghan soldiers search a mosque where militants had been seen congregating during the operation.

Afghans in K Troop's operations center.

As the soldiers crossed Highway 1, scanning the ground with handheld mine detectors, activity picked up around the compounds to the south. Men huddled together. Someone pulled up on a motorcycle and spoke briefly with a group of men before speeding away.

Several men then began digging in various spots around the compounds. One man removed a pair of long objects from a furrow. The group eventually came together and convoyed to the southwest on motorcycles. The surveillance cameras followed them on a winding road — directly past where Afghan police were supposed to be blocking.

"They're out of our reach now," one of the soldiers in the operations center said.

By the time Rohani's men arrived, most of the fighters were gone, leaving only farmers and families. Rohani's men made several arrests and set fire to an empty shack where fighters had been seen congregating. They searched the compounds and the ground without any luck.

One of the blocking positions began taking isolated fire, which wounded an Afghan soldier in the head. Forty minutes later, one of the U.S. Strykers hit a roadside bomb, injuring the driver. K Troop evacuated the Afghan soldier, who was taken away by medevac, and sent an explosive ordnance disposal team to the Stryker. The

operation began to wrap up, and soldiers pulled back.

Carroll radioed in to the operations center: "Right now, I think we've achieved everything we're going to achieve today."

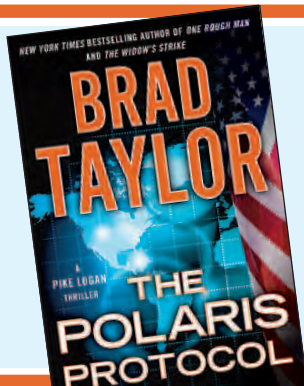
Smith, who watched the clearance from the surveillance feed, deemed the operation a worthy effort, if flawed in parts. It would boost the confidence of Rohani and his men, he said, and would disrupt an insurgent network that threatened movement in the area.

Maiwand was a large, open district, and it needed an Afghan unit willing to move off checkpoints and bases to attack the enemy, he said. "I think this will buy us some time for the rest of the year."

Two hours later, as U.S. and Afghan soldiers trickled back to their bases, and as K Troop continued to extract the damaged Stryker, U.S. surveillance cameras panning the area focused on a stretch of road that had been cleared earlier. There, a dismounted motorcycle rider swept dirt over something he had just placed in the road. He dusted it with a scarf, mounted his motorcycle and drove back into one of the compounds that Afghans had cleared.

The soldiers watching in the operations center groaned. They knew exactly what it was: one more roadside bomb, courtesy of a neighbor who just wouldn't go away.

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Logan and Cabill uncover a plot far more insidious than drug trafficking—the cartel has discovered a GPS hack with the power to debilitate the United States by making it possible to manipulate everything from traffic signals and banking wire transfers to cruise missiles.

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NATION

Feds announce test sites for drone aircraft

By MICHELLE RINDELS
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Six states were named Monday by federal officials to develop test sites for drones — a critical next step for the burgeoning industry that one day could produce thousands of unmanned aircraft for use by businesses, farmers and researchers.

Alaska, Nevada, New York, North Dakota, Texas and Virginia will host the research sites, providing diverse climates, geography and air traffic environments as the Federal Aviation Administration seeks to safely introduce commercial drones into U.S. airspace.

Members of Congress and other politicians lobbied intensely to bring the work to their states. Representatives were jubilant

about the likelihood that the testing will draw companies interested in cashing in on the fledgling industry.

An industry-commissioned study has predicted more than 70,000 jobs would develop in the first three years after Congress loosens drone restrictions on U.S. skies. The same study projects an average salary range for a drone pilot between \$85,000 and \$115,000.

"This is wonderful news for Nevada that creates a huge opportunity for our economy," said Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev. In New York, Sen. Charles Schumer, a Democrat, called the announcement a boon for his state.

Drones have been used mainly by the military, but governments, businesses, farmers and others are making plans to join the market. Many universities are starting

or expanding curriculum involving drones.

The FAA does not currently allow commercial use of drones, but it is working to develop operational guidelines by the end of 2015, although officials concede the project may take longer than expected.

The FAA projects some 7,500 commercial drones could be aloft within five years of getting widespread access to the skies above America.

"Today was an important step," said attorney Ben Gielow, of the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International, noting the announcement came after months of delays and data gathering. "I think we're all anxious to get this moving."

The competition for a test site was robust, with 25 entities in 24 states submitting proposals, FAA Administrator Michael Huerta said during a conference

call with reporters.

At least one of the six sites chosen by the FAA will be up and running within 180 days, while the others are expected to come online in quick succession, he said. However, the designation as a test site doesn't come with a financial award from the government.

In choosing Alaska, the FAA cited a diverse set of test site locations in seven climatic zones. New York's site at Griffiss International Airport will look into integrating drones into the congested northeast airspace. Nevada offered proximity to military aircraft from several bases, Huerta said.

The testing will determine whether drones can detect and avoid aircraft and other obstacles, and if they can operate safely when contact is lost with operators.

Legal recreational pot industry opens in Colo.

By KRISTEN WYATT
The Associated Press

DENVER — The first recreational marijuana industry in the U.S. opened Wednesday in Colorado, kicking off an experiment that will be watched closely around the world.

Activists hope to prove that legalization is a better alternative than the costly, American-led war on drugs.

"Honestly, I thought I'd never see the day," said a giddy Errin Reaume, who shared hits of concentrated marijuana at a 1920s-themed "Prohibition Is Over" party in Denver.

Skeptics worry the industry will make the drug more widely available to teens, even though legal sales are limited to adults older than 21.

Colorado voters in 2012 approved the legal pot industry. Washington state has its own version, which is scheduled to open

in mid-2014. Uruguay passed a law in December to become the first nation to regulate pot.

Pot advocates have argued a legal market would generate revenue for states and would save money by not having to lock up so many drug offenders.

At least 24 pot shops in eight Colorado towns opened after increasing staff and inventory and hiring security.

Colorado set up an elaborate plant-tracking system to try to keep the drug away from the black market, and regulators set up packaging, labeling and testing requirements, along with potency limits for edible pot.

Pot is still illegal under federal law, but the U.S. Justice Department outlined an eight-point slate of priorities for pot regulation, requiring states to keep the drug away from minors, criminal cartels, federal property and other states in order to avoid a federal crackdown.

Judge extends life support for brain-dead Calif. teen

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — A California judge on Monday ordered a 13-year-old girl who was declared brain-dead to be kept on life support until Tuesday.

Alameda County Superior Court Judge Evelio Grillo ordered Children's Hospital Oakland to maintain Jahi McMath on a ventilator past the 5 p.m. Monday time that was set in a previous ruling.

The family wants to continue life support, saying there is hope for recovery.

Nailah Winkfield, the girl's mother, said she wept when she heard about the ruling and hugged relatives outside the hospital.

She said the delay was an answer to her prayers and a sign that she was right to keep fighting.

"Who wants to know the date

and the time their child would die?" she said. "I don't care what anyone has to say about what I'm doing ... I have to do what is right for me and for Jahi."

She said she does not believe her daughter is dead because her heart is still beating.

Sam Singer, a hospital spokesman, said it would comply with the judge's new order.

Doctors at Children's Hospital and an independent pediatric neurologist from Stanford University have concluded the girl is brain-dead.

Jahi underwent a tonsillectomy at the hospital on Dec. 9. After she awoke from the operation, she started bleeding heavily and went into cardiac arrest, her family said.



COURTESY OF KEN PAWLUK/AP

Fire and smoke erupt Monday from a derailed train west of Casselton, N.D.

Town voices safety concerns after ND oil train derailment

The Associated Press

CASSELTON, N.D. — A fiery oil train derailment near a small North Dakota town had its mayor angrily calling for federal officials to do more to guarantee the safety of the nation's growing shipment of oil by rail.

Government regulators defended their record on moving hazardous materials by rail, noting that 2012 was the safest year in the industry's history. But oil trains have bucked that trend, thanks in part to the massive amount of oil being moved out of western North Dakota, where the industry's rapid growth is far outpacing pipeline development.

No one was hurt when the mile-long BNSF Railway train derailed Monday afternoon near the eastern North Dakota town of Casselton, but the overturned tankers — exploding and engulfed in plumes of flames and black smoke for more than 24 hours — burned so hotly that emergency crews

didn't even attempt to put out the blaze. Most of Casselton's roughly 2,400 residents agreed to evacuate temporarily due to concerns about unsafe air.

"This is too close for comfort," Casselton Mayor Ed McConnell said Tuesday.

While the overall rate of oil train accidents remains low — less than 0.1 percent of crude-carrying tank cars have suffered accidental releases this year — there's been a sharp increase in the number of releases during the past several years. That's driven by a surge in drilling for unconventional shale oil in North Dakota and other western states.

Through early November, the most recent data available, crude releases have been reported from 137 rail cars in 2013, according to an Associated Press analysis of federal accident records. By comparison, only one release was reported in 2009, before the boom got well underway.

The rail tracks in eastern North Dakota run through the middle of Casselton, about 25 miles west of Fargo. McConnell estimated that dozens of people could have been killed if the derailments had happened within the town.

The mayor said it was time to "have a conversation" with federal lawmakers about the dangers of transporting oil by rail.

"There have been numerous derailments in this area," he told the AP. "It's almost gotten to the point that it looks like not if we're going to have an accident, it's when."

Gov. Jack Dalrymple visited Casselton, his hometown, to view the scene. He called it a "major catastrophe" that would prompt concern no matter where it happened. "People will be asking a lot of questions about the safety of equipment, the safety of railroad operations, and why did the derailment occur in the first place," he said.

WORLD

N. Korea
touts 'filth'
purge, warns
about nukes

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Kim Jong Un boasted Wednesday that North Korea enters the new year on a surge of strength because of the elimination of "factionalist filth" — a reference to the young leader's once-powerful uncle, whose execution last month raised questions about Kim's grip on power.

Kim's comments in an annual New Year's Day message, which included a call for improved ties with Seoul but also a warning of a possible "nuclear catastrophe," will be scrutinized by outside analysts and governments for clues about the opaque country's intentions and policy goals.

Already widespread worry about the country has deepened since Kim publicly humiliated and then executed his uncle and mentor, one of the biggest political developments in Pyongyang in years, and certainly since Kim took power two years ago after the death of his father, Kim Jong Il.

North Korea's "resolute" action to "eliminate factionalist filth" within the ruling Workers' Party has bolstered the country's unity "by 100 times," Kim said in a speech broadcast by state TV. He didn't mention by name his uncle, Jang Song Thaek, long considered the country's No. 2 power.

But Kim included rhetoric that some analysts saw as a first step to renewing dialogue with rival Seoul. Kim called for an improvement in strained ties with South Korea, saying it's time for each side to stop slandering the other and urging Seoul to listen to voices calling for Korean unification.



ANDREW PEACOCK, AUSTRALASIAN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION, FOOTLOOSE PHOTOGRAPHY/AP

Passengers from the Russian ship MV Akademik Shokalskiy link arms Tuesday and stamp out a helicopter landing site on the ice near the trapped ship 1,500 nautical miles south of Hobart, Australia.

Ship trapped in Antarctic
ice awaits helicopter rescueBy KRISTEN GELINEAU
The Associated Press

SYDNEY — Passengers on board a research ship that has been trapped in Antarctic ice for a week are expected to be rescued by helicopter after three icebreakers failed to reach the paralyzed vessel, officials said Tuesday.

The 74 scientists, tourists and crew on the Russian ship MV Akademik Shokalskiy, which has been stuck since Christmas Eve, had been hoping the Australian icebreaker Aurora Australis would be able to crack through the thick ice and allow them to continue on their way. The Aurora came within 12 miles of the ship on Monday, but fierce winds and snow forced it to retreat to open water.

On Tuesday, the weather remained bleak, and the crew on the Aurora said their vessel also would be at risk of getting stuck

if it made another rescue attempt, according to the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, which is coordinating the rescue.

A helicopter aboard a Chinese icebreaker, the Snow Dragon, will be used to collect the passengers. The Snow Dragon, which is waiting with the Aurora at the edge of the ice pack, also was unable to crack through the ice, as was France's L'Astrolabe.

The helicopter must wait for a break in the weather before it can attempt a rescue, and conditions weren't expected to improve before Wednesday, the maritime authority said. The passengers will be flown back to the Snow Dragon in groups of 12, and then transferred by barge to the Aurora.

All 52 passengers will be evacuated, but the crew on the Akademik Shokalskiy will stay behind with the ship and wait for the ice to break up naturally, expedition spokesman Alvin Stone said.

South Sudan
peace talks to
open in EthiopiaBy JASON STRAZIUSO
AND RODNEY MUHUMUZA
The Associated Press

JUBA, South Sudan — Negotiators from South Sudan's two warring sides were scheduled to arrive in Ethiopia for peace talks late Wednesday, as the top United Nations official in the country urged both forces to bring the country "back from the brink."

Fighting continued Wednesday in South Sudan's city of Bor — a gateway city to the capital, Juba — a government official said. Bor is just 75 miles from Juba.

Bor, the capital of Jonglei state, is the current center of ethnically based violence stemming from the political rivalry between President Salva Kiir and ousted Vice President Riek Machar, the rebel leader accused of mounting a failed coup attempt.

More than 1,000 people have been killed in the violence, the U.N. said.

Machar said Tuesday that he would send his forces from Bor on to Juba, but that threat was downplayed by Hilde Johnson, the U.N. representative in South Sudan, who said, "I think we need to take quotations with pinches of salt at this point of time."

Pro-Machar forces in Bor appear to be taking defensive positions, Johnson said. The Bor fighting has newly displaced about 60,000 people, the country's latest humanitarian crisis.

The U.N. is "gravely concerned" about mounting evidence of gross violations of international human rights law, including the extrajudicial killings of civilians and captured soldiers, it said Tuesday. The U.N.'s estimate of 1,000

dead was given days ago, and the number of fatalities is believed to be higher as a result of the new fighting around the country, including in Bor.

South Sudan Foreign Minister Barnaba Marial Benjamin labeled Bor a war zone Wednesday.

Government troops pulled out of parts of Bor because they were concerned about having to kill the "young boys" who fill the ranks of the rebels, one analyst said.

South Sudan's military "was told to withdraw," Edmund Yakani, the executive director of the Juba-based group Community Empowerment for Progress, said, citing the accounts of contacts in Bor. "They communicated that these are young boys and we are killing them like nothing."

Government troops in Bor face renegade forces allied with a pro-Machar tribal militia known as the "White Army," so called because its young members of the Nuer tribe smear their faces with ash to keep insects away.

Johnson said 240 U.N. police were scheduled to arrive in South Sudan later Wednesday who can help police refugee camps. The U.N. says up to 180,000 people have been internally displaced by the violence, including about 68,000 sheltering at U.N. camps.

"Even with the tremendous efforts made by health partners, sanitation conditions are still inadequate largely due to the large number of people sheltering in United Nations bases which have insufficient space to house these numbers," said Abdi Aden Mohammed, the World Health Organization's representative in South Sudan.

UN: Iraq's annual death toll most in years

By SINAN SALAHEDDIN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The United Nations said Wednesday that violence claimed the lives of 7,818 civilians in Iraq in 2013, the highest annual death toll in years.

More than eight months of escalated violence has sparked fears that the country may be returning to the widespread bloodshed of 2004-07 that saw tens of thousands killed each year. Death tolls dipped following a U.S. troop surge and an alliance of Sunni militias with U.S. forces against al-Qaida, but soaring sectarian distrust appears to be allowing the extremist network to rebuild.

Violence spiked in April after

the Shiite-led government staged a deadly crackdown on a Sunni protest camp. Iraq's al-Qaida branch has fed on Sunni discontent and on the civil war in neighboring Syria, in which mostly Sunni rebels fight a government whose base is a Shiite offshoot sect. It has targeted civilians, particularly in Shiite areas of Baghdad, with waves of coordinated car bombings and other deadly attacks.

The U.N. figures have a total of 759 people killed in December alone, including 661 civilians and 98 members of the security forces. Another 1,345 were wounded, the statement said. The U.N.'s monthly figures for both civilians and security forces over the year

totalled 8,868.

Mission chief Nickolay Mladenov called on Iraqis to take the necessary steps to stem violence. "This is a sad and terrible record which confirms once again the urgent need for the Iraqi authorities to address the roots of violence to curb this infernal circle," Mladenov was quoted in the statement as saying.

On Wednesday, al-Qaida gunmen fanned out in the streets of towns in the volatile western province of Anbar amid Sunni anger over the arrest of a prominent Sunni lawmaker and the dismantlement of a yearlong sit-in at the provincial capital Ramadi in recent days.

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OPINION

Benghazi intel misused for political gain

By MARTIN SCHRAM
 McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Today we are reporting vital intelligence from a document now in my possession that may finally silence Washington's old, lame Benghazi blame game.

The document, written in 2012, sheds light on the motives and thinking of the attackers as they were attacking the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya. And it reveals errors in assertions made by Democrats and Republicans in the overheated post-Benghazi contretemps.

So today we are revealing both the information and the source who provided this crucial intelligence.

On Saturday, the Benghazi blame game erupted yet again after The New York Times' website launched an investigative account of just who did what in Benghazi — before, during and after the Sept. 11, 2012, attacks. Four Americans were killed in the attacks on the compound and a nearby CIA annex, including U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens.

The Times report, by Cairo bureau chief David Kirkpatrick, was exhaustive and impressive in many ways. Yet it can be justifiably criticized for not even mentioning Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and giving only minimal coverage to the Obama administration's election-year political decisions on how to respond. (Especially the foolish decision to have the uninvolved and misinformed U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice claim on television the Benghazi attack was merely a copycat of the spontaneous crowd that over-

ran the U.S. Embassy in Cairo to protest a video offensive to Muslims made by a U.S. citizen.)

The New York Times reported its investigation "turned up no evidence that al-Qaida or other international terrorist groups had any role in the assault. ... And contrary to claims by some members of Congress, it was fueled in large part by anger at an American-made video denigrating Islam."

In a flash, the blame game battle was on again. House Oversight Committee Chairman Darrell Issa, R-Calif., said on NBC News' "Meet the Press," "We have seen no evidence that the video was widely seen in Benghazi, a very isolated area, or that it was a leading cause."

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers, R-Mich., usually excellent and above politics on intelligence issues, is sadly partisan on this one. "We found absolutely no evidence that that video was involved in this whatsoever," Rogers insisted on Monday's "CBS Evening News." "As a matter of fact, most of the information about the video didn't even start surfacing in social media we found until after the event had happened."

Time out! Those claims of Issa and Rogers were refuted by evidence gathered in Benghazi by a source who talked with Libyans — during the attack! (Also, Team Obama's initial claim that this was just a citizen crowd was also refuted — many were militia men, armed for the attack. If this source had been a CIA employee, we'd call the info he culled "intelligence.")

Issa, Rogers, Fox News, et al. had the

same access we had to this intelligence on the roots of the Benghazi attack. It was in an Oct. 16, 2012, article The New York Times strangely buried on Page A6, softly labeled as a "Memo from the Middle East," and written by, yes, David Kirkpatrick.

As an intelligence document, the article delivered far more than the newspaper promised: "To Libyans who witnessed the assault and know the attackers, there is little doubt what occurred: a well-known group of local Islamist militants struck without any warning or protest, and they did it in retaliation for the video. That is what the fighters said at the time, speaking emotionally of their anger at the video without mentioning al-Qaida, Osama bin Laden or the terrorist strikes of 11 years earlier."

Also: "'It was the Ansar al-Shariah people,' said Mohamed Bishari, a 20-year-old neighbor who watched the assault and described the brigade he saw leading the attack. 'There was no protest or anything of that sort.'" (Ansar al-Shariah is a strongly anti-Western militia group, but intelligence agencies reportedly have not found any overt linkage to an al-Qaida network.)

For the past year, while critical of Team Obama's misguided initial response to the Benghazi tragedy, I've wondered in print how critics could repeatedly make accusations that were flatly disproven by that 2012 Times article.

Now we know: Obama's critics weren't lacking intelligence. They just found it inconvenient — and ignored it.

Martin Schram is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive.

Like in WWII, US must push through setbacks

By DAVID IGNATIUS

WASHINGTON

For an optimistic country, 2013 was a heck of a downbeat year, perhaps most of all for the nation's chief executive. The entire top half of the Dec. 15 Outlook section cover in The Washington Post carried the bleak review: "President Obama, you had the worst year in Washington."

Who would disagree? But Barack Obama certainly had competition in the worst-year department, from the poisonously divided Congress to investment-shy business executives to a public so demoralized by wars in Iraq and Afghanistan that it balked at the use of force even to punish chemical weapons attacks by Syria.

To many Americans, this was a year when the nation's declining global power perhaps seemed a reverse image of the confident, indomitable nation that, in the popular imagination, rolled to victory in World War II. "The Greatest Generation" felt like a relic not just of another century but of another nation.

But let's be frank at year-end: This sort of relentless pessimism is destructive and, what's more important, it's inaccurate. We in the media pride ourselves on purveying bad news, so it's easy for our readers to overlook the abiding reality that America is generally at peace and, relative to most of the world, wildly prosperous. In our national funk, we paint the present in darker colors than warranted, and the past in brighter hues.

One way to position the country more accurately is to look back at the time of triumph in World War II, when our modern myths were created, and unpack what really happened. That's possible thanks to an extraordinary work of history completed

In our national funk, we paint the present in darker colors than warranted, and the past in brighter hues.

in 2013 by my colleague Rick Atkinson. His "Liberation Trilogy" revises many of the things you thought you knew about the war in Europe — and teaches the greatest lesson of all for the present, which is the need for patience and perseverance against obstacles.

As Atkinson tells the story, drawing on letters, diaries and other vivid personal accounts, World War II was a chain of often disastrous mistakes redeemed by the fact that America and its allies just kept going, literally climbing over the bodies of the dead. Through the war, amphibious landings were almost always botched, parachute landings almost never hit targets and Allied bombers again and again mistakenly pummeled their own troops. American generals, from Supreme Commander Dwight D. Eisenhower on down, often made terrible errors that cost thousands of lives unnecessarily.

Yet the nation persisted through sheer momentum and force of will. In those days, the public was shielded from the disheartening news of disaster by military censorship and the discretion of journalists who passionately wanted to tell the truth but also hoped to see their country prevail. The greatest of those war correspondents, Ernie Pyle, wrote about the "long thin line of personal anguish" of war, after searching the effects of the dead at the high-water line on Omaha Beach the day after D-Day.

Atkinson describes the repeated errors

of the North African campaign in his brilliant first volume, "An Army at Dawn," which won the Pulitzer Prize in 2003. It recounts the chain of error symbolized by the catastrophic reversals at Kasserine Pass. "The brave and the virtuous appear throughout the North African campaign, to be sure, but so do the cowardly, the venal and the foolish. ... It was a time of cunning and miscalculation, of sacrifice and self-indulgence, of ambiguity, love, malice and mass murder."

The ragged road to victory continued into Sicily and Italy, described in Atkinson's second volume, "The Day of Battle." The Allies' ultimate success buried the nightmarish fiascos of that campaign, from the error-plagued landings at Salerno and Anzio to the needless waste of young lives at the Rapido River and Monte Cassino.

Even on the eve of the war's greatest triumph, the D-Day landings in Normandy, Brig. Gen. Norman D. Cota, who would be the senior officer on Omaha Beach, warned his soldiers: "You're going to find confusion. The landing craft aren't going in on schedule and people are going to be landed in the wrong place. Some won't be landed at all. ... We must improvise, carry on, not lose our heads." Every disaster he foretold came true, yet the onslaught succeeded, as Atkinson narrates in his final volume, "The Guns at Last Light."

Presidents, like generals, make mistakes. Some of them have ruinous consequences. But the real lesson of Atkinson's story is that the only unforgivable mistake is to despair and give up. There was too much of that attitude in America in 2013, among leaders and citizens alike. Here's to a new year.

David Ignatius is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

OPINION

Commitment bill won't resolve nuclear issue

BY MATTHEW BUNN
AND FRED MCGOLDRICK

The world is rightly worried about Iran's uranium enrichment program. Iran claims the technology is for producing fuel for nuclear power plants, but it could be quickly shifted to making nuclear bomb material. Unfortunately, some in Congress, in their eagerness to stem the spread of such technologies, have introduced legislation — separate from their effort to slap further sanctions on Iran — that probably would make stopping nuclear proliferation harder, not easier.

Their idea is to limit future U.S. peaceful nuclear cooperation only to countries that make a legal commitment to forgo building facilities for either uranium enrichment or plutonium reprocessing (the other path to nuclear bomb material). The idea sounds good, but it is likely to be both ineffective and counterproductive.

Why? First, all but a few countries are likely to reject making such a commitment, signing away what they consider to be their rights under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Getting into an argument over national sovereignty and national rights would make it very difficult or impossible to discuss practical steps that countries might otherwise take to meet their nuclear fuel needs.

A few countries have been prepared to agree to such terms, but they are unique cases. The United Arab Emirates realized that as the first Arab country to build nuclear power plants, it had to go the extra mile to address international concerns. It signed every nonproliferation commitment available, including a ban on enrichment and reprocessing. Although some call the UAE's 2009 agreement with the United States the "gold standard," the reality is that few other countries would agree

to similar terms. (Taiwan, which has also accepted those terms, is unusually dependent on the United States and agreed under U.S. pressure.)

Although the recent interim nuclear deal with Iran is a positive step, having acknowledged that enrichment will continue in Iran will certainly make it more difficult to insist that our nuclear cooperation partners can never be allowed to do the same.

Second, the other major nuclear suppliers would not require countries that are abiding by their nonproliferation obligations to forswear enrichment and reprocessing. If the U.S. insists on requiring the UAE model in all its future civil nuclear accords, countries would buy their nuclear reactors from Russia, France, South Korea and China, undercutting the U.S. ability to influence the civil nuclear programs of new nuclear states. The result may be both fewer U.S. nuclear sales and more proliferation risk.

Third, there are many other tools for limiting the spread of enrichment and reprocessing technologies, and those tools are generally working well. Indeed, although few countries want to give up any national rights, precious few have any practical interest in building expensive, demanding and unneeded enrichment and reprocessing facilities. Most countries with nuclear power plants rely on international markets to supply their nuclear fuel.

Tools for limiting the spread of enrichment and reprocessing include strict export controls and interdiction to cut off black-market supply; U.S. legal rights to approve or disapprove reprocessing or enrichment of any nuclear material it supplies; and new and strengthened criteria accepted by the Nuclear Suppliers Group to restrict the transfer of these technologies.

The international community has also provided attractive alternatives to na-



tional enrichment plants. For example, in 2010, members of the International Atomic Energy Agency agreed to create an international nuclear fuel bank to serve as a backup supply if the supply to countries was ever interrupted. In the future, "fuel leasing," in which suppliers agree both to supply fuel and to take back the spent fuel, could allow countries to avoid building their own nuclear waste repositories, creating a powerful incentive for them to rely on international supply.

Diplomatic initiatives have been successful in convincing a number of countries that they have no need to build such plants in the near term (or persuading suppliers not to sell them). But those efforts would have had much less chance of success if they had focused on getting a legal agreement that these countries would never

build such a plant.

In short, stemming the spread of enrichment and reprocessing must remain a key U.S. policy objective. But legislation mandating a legal ban in all new civil nuclear cooperation agreements would do little more than freeze the United States out of new nuclear markets and reduce its nonproliferation influence.

Matthew Bunn, a professor at Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, was an adviser on nonproliferation in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy from 1994 to 1996. Fred McGoldrick held senior positions from 1973 to 1998 in the Energy and State departments, where he negotiated U.S. nuclear cooperation agreements and helped shape U.S. policy to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

NSA review group didn't call for rollback of powers

BY MICHAEL MORELL

One of the dangers of a 304-page report on a complex subject is that everyone gets to choose what he or she thinks is the bottom line. Many of those commenting on the report and recommendations of the recently completed Presidential Review Group on Intelligence and Communications Technologies must have read a different report than the one I helped write.

As one of the five members of the panel, let me try to clear up some of the confusion and misperceptions. One such misperception is the extent of the changes called for in the report. Commentators have used the word "sweeping" to characterize the recommendations, arguing that they would "roll back" the capabilities of the intelligence community.

That is incorrect.

Take, for example, the Section 215 telephone metadata program. It gives the National Security Agency the ability to hold the metadata of Americans' phone calls and to search the database containing that information, under a broad court order, to determine whether terrorists overseas have connections to any individuals in the United States.

Several news outlets have reported that the review group had called for an end to the program, but we did not do that. We called for a change in approach rather than a wholesale rejection. To better protect the privacy and civil liberties of Americans — key values of our republic — we recommended that the government no longer hold

The NSA's Section 215 program needs to be successful only once to be invaluable.

the data and that it be required to obtain an individual court order for each search. But make no mistake: The review group reaffirmed that the program should remain a tool of our government in the fight against terrorism.

Another misperception involved the review group's view of the efficacy of the Section 215 program; many commentators said it found no value in the program. The report accurately said that the program has not been "essential to preventing attacks" since its creation. But that is not the same thing as saying the program is not important to national security, which is why we did not recommend its elimination.

Had the program been in place more than a decade ago, it would likely have prevented the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. And it has the potential to prevent the next 9/11. It needs to be successful only once to be invaluable. It also provides some confidence that overseas terrorist activity does not have a U.S. nexus. The metadata program did exactly that during my last days at the CIA last summer, in the midst of significant threat reports emanating from Yemen. By examining the metadata, we were able to determine that certain known terrorists were most likely not in phone contact with anyone in the United States during this specific period of concern.

Personally, I would expand the Section

215 program to include all telephone metadata (the program covers only a subset of the total calls made) as well as email metadata (which is not in the program) to better protect the United States. This is a personal view; it is not something the review group opined on or even discussed. Such an expansion should, of course, fall under the same constraints recommended by the review group.

The idea that we can do a better job protecting privacy and civil liberties at no expense to national security is also incorrect. The review group believes there will be costs but that they will be manageable. This trade-off is at the crux of what President Barack Obama needs to decide about whether and how to amend current programs.

Take the Section 215 program again. The review group's recommendations will, if adopted by the president, slow the process of searching the metadata. No doubt about it. It will take time to prepare a justification for the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, for the court to render a decision and for the NSA to reach out to the private holder of the data. But the review panel believes this loss of flexibility is both manageable — we allow for exceptions in emergency situations, for example — and worth the protection of personal freedom it provides.

Finally, the argument that the review group is boxing in the president's decision-making on this issue is flawed. In its transmittal letter to the president, the group noted that it did not have the time nor the expertise to think through all the implications of each recommendation, noting that the recommendations require further study before acceptance and implementation. That is not a box; it is a road map to an effective policy process.

The review group's report, moreover, is part of a larger process. It is one of several views the president will receive on this important issue.

Obama has heard the views of information technology companies. He has heard our view. He will hear the view of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board. He will also be receiving the perspective of the intelligence community, which has concerns with a handful of the review group's recommendations. It will be important for the president to consider all of these views closely, and I know he will.

The key job of an intelligence officer is to paint an accurate picture of a national security issue for the president so that he can make good decisions. Because countries often make the wrong choices when misperceptions and inaccuracies abound, it is critical for the president's advisers to bring him clarity on the important intelligence policy issues now before him.

Michael Morell, a member of President Barack Obama's Review Group on Intelligence and Communications Technologies, is the former acting director and deputy director of the CIA. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

WORLD

Time takes a toll on a gift of friendship

When a bell from South Korea needed restoration work, only the designer's pupil had the skills

By MATT STEVENS
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES
Chai Dong-hey is sandwiched between scaffolding and a 17-ton bronze bell on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean. The white mask covering his mouth and nose pokes out just inches from tarnished metal.

His arm cocked at an 80-degree angle, the South Korean bellmaster maneuvers a chisel into a crevice in an engraving of the Statue of Liberty on the bell. Then he draws out a small hammer — ready to carve out rust 37 years in the making.

Tap, tap, tap.

The bell issues a soft musical reply.

Gong, gong, gong.

Around him, other workers take buffers to the bell under the watchful eye of a foreman. By midmorning, city workers back in a truck to remove bags full of waste, and at noon the team retires for a simple lunch of barley rice.

After the break, Chai spreads his selection of small picks across a white cloth on the scaffolding. As he chips away at the edges of a rose, rusty brown gives way to glowing bronze.

Nearly 40 years ago, Chai's mentor spent months casting the Korean Friendship Bell at the behest of the South Korean government and sent it to San Pedro, Calif., as a present for the United States' 200th birthday.

Now Chai is helping to rescue it.

"My teacher always spoke of this bell as a child he had given up for adoption," Chai said through a translator. "He was always concerned about its well-being, but there wasn't much he could do, because it was so far away. I always wanted to come here."

The bell may not be well known in Los Angeles, but some Koreans consider it a West Coast Statue of Liberty — a symbol of the strong ties between the U.S. and Korea.

Then-South Korean President Park Chung-hee wanted the gift to be something special; his government spent more than \$1 million to cast the bell, formally known as the Bell of Friendship, and build it a proper house.

He had it modeled after a famous Korean bell that dated to 771. Back then, bells were considered technological wonders that had the power to restore peace,



PHOTOS BY BOB CHAMBERLIN, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Master bellmaster Chai Dong-hey painstakingly chisels out impurities in the nooks and crannies of the Korean Bell in San Pedro, Calif., in late September.

tranquility and healing to those who heard them.

A Korean bell doesn't curve outward, instead dipping almost straight down like a dome to keep the sounds resonating within.

A bowl placed underneath reflects sound back into the bell and through a hole ornamented by a dragon that funnels the bell's sound out a pipe at the top.

The features allow Korean bells to be heard miles and miles away.

Four Korean goddesses — hold-

ing symbols for peace and victory, the South Korean flag and the national flower — are engraved in relief onto the bell, and each is paired with a goddess resembling the Statue of Liberty. Roses in bloom form a circle around the base.

Traditionally, the bell has been rung five times a year: for Korean Liberation Day, U.S. Constitution Day, Korean American Day, the Fourth of July and New Year's Eve.

In recent years, it has fallen into disrepair.

A chunk of the link that attaches the bell to its house fell off during a bell-ringing ceremony in 2010, causing the object to sag and twist inside its pavilion. Bird excrement lined the belfry. The concrete of the once-colorful pagoda was chipped. A vandal covered the inside of the bell with graffiti.

The city of Los Angeles had neither the money nor the expertise

to fix it, so the Korean Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism paid more than \$300,000 to replace the link and hire the experts who could bring the bell back to life.

The artists say they are among a handful of metallurgists with the experience necessary to repair a bell of this size.

Because Chai's company cast the bell, his technicians approach the repairs with a sense of duty.

"When this bell was cast, Korea was still among the poorer countries in the world," Chai, 51, said. "So for them to aspire to make the largest bell ever cast in Korean history, that was a giant project."

Childhood interest

Ernest Lee was just a kid when his aunt first took him to see the Korean Friendship Bell in Angels Gate Park. He recalls his joy at being able to read the inscription in his native tongue:

"May this bell ring and sound



Byung-Hwi Cho reaches out to touch the polished Korean bell.

forth the hope and resolve of our two nations in their common devotion to enduring prosperity, liberty and peace."

By 2006, Lee had moved to Torrance and often passed the bell. The telecommunications entrepreneur quickly realized that it had fallen into disrepair. So he banded together with some high school friends, joined forces with another Korean advocacy group and formed the Korean Friendship Bell Preservation Committee.

The nonprofit group started running the bell-ringing ceremonies and worked with connections in Korea to find a master carpenter who could replace the termite-damaged totems that guard the pagoda.

But who, members wondered, could fix the bell?

Lee's group reached out to local metallurgy experts, who said restoring the bell was outside their expertise. The city said the same thing. Even the Internet failed to provide a solution.

One of Lee's committee members, however, had brought a 4-year-old Buddhist magazine back from Korea. It was on a coffee table when someone spotted an ad the size of a business card promoting Chai's firm, Beom Jong Sa. The ad said: "Manufacturer of Korean Bell of Friendship in L.A."

Chai's skills have taken him all over the world. He once cast a massive bell for Indonesia decorated with dozens of tiny handcrafted Buddhas. Another time he journeyed to North Korea to refurbish a bell.

Now in Los Angeles, he keeps pictures from those trips on a tablet he carries with him. On that device, he also has some old photos of his mentor, Kim Chuloh, ringing the Korean Friendship Bell before it was sent across the Pacific.

At the age of 72, Kim is the last living craftsman to work on the original project. It has fallen to Chai to repair his master's work.

Chai said his company approaches all its jobs with a dedication to quality, but acknowledged that this project meant something more.

The bell, he said simply, is "my child."

'My teacher always spoke of this bell as a child he had given up for adoption. He was always concerned about its well-being, but there wasn't much he could do, because it was so far away.'

Chai Dong-hey
speaking of his mentor, Kim Chuloh, who made the bell

WORLD

US aims for better ties among Haiti's police and citizens

The Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — The U.S. State Department has begun a community policing program in Haiti that aims to strengthen ties between officers and the neighborhoods they patrol in a country where police are largely mistrusted.

Stuart Smith, director of the U.S. Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, said the program hopes that by building trust with police, residents will share information about crime and other matters.

The program began in April when 40 members of the unit took courses that included ethics, human rights and communications.

The officers now conduct foot patrols in the Delmas district of the capital and have so far visited about a dozen schools to educate children about their work in law enforcement.

They've been joined by Haitian-American officers from the New York Police Department who serve as mentors.

Haitian police want to make the program nationwide.

The Haitian National Police Department has only 10,000 officers in a country of 10 million people and has gotten a bad rap since it was created in 1995.

Many people in Haiti don't trust the force and accuse officers of collecting bribes and beating people instead of catching criminals.

Police abuse has been a problem of late in Delmas, a city in the crowded capital that is home to more than 300,000 people.

Delmas police officers in April were blamed for beating two men, one of them to death, as they faced eviction from the makeshift encampment in which they had lived since the 2010 earthquake.

Such heavy-handed tactics were



Hans Jeannot, a Haitian-American New York police officer, plays a game with student Shidlande Jean Baptiste, 11, during a visit to the Institution Classique de l'Humanisme in Delmas, Haiti, as part of a U.S. State Department community policing program.

on the mind of a few students at a high school that officers recently visited to explain their work.

One teenage girl wanted to know why police officers gas protesters.

Another wanted to know why

police officers seem to protect only wealthy Haitians.

"We're here for everyone," Inspector Salvador Etienne said. "We don't make a distinction. Everyone gets the same service."

The agency hopes to add another

5,000 officers by 2016.

The Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs has contributed \$15 million to \$20 million annually toward security programs in Haiti the past five years, Smith said.



PHOTOS BY DIEU NALIO CHERY/AP

Haitian police officer Salvador Etienne speaks to students at Institution Classique de l'Humanisme. As part of a new community policing program, the officers conduct foot patrols in the Delmas district of the capital and visit schools to educate children about their work in law enforcement.

WORLD



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE U.N. HIGH COMMISSION ON REFUGEES/AP

Above: Syrian refugee Mahmoud, 15, cleans fish in a shop next to his home in an underground shelter in Lebanon where he lives with his family. Mahmoud hasn't been to school in three years and makes money cleaning fish for tips.

Right: Syrian refugee children line up for work at the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan.



Syrian families depend on working youths

UN report: Children in refugee camps missing out on education, forced to become primary providers

By BARBARA SURK
The Associated Press

Every morning in northeastern Lebanon, hundreds of Syrian children are picked up from refugee settlements, loaded onto trucks and taken to the fields or shops for a day's work that earns \$4 or less.

Throughout the day, young boys and girls walk along dirt roads, carrying baskets of fruits and vegetables from the fields to shops. Some are barefoot, while others struggle with the heavy load.

The children, some as young as 7, are cheap labor in Lebanon and Jordan, where they've fled the Syrian civil war. And they are fast becoming primary providers for their families as the adults can't find jobs in exile. They work long hours of manual labor in fields, farms and shops for little pay, according to a U.N. report issued in late November.

More than 2 million Syrians have fled their country's civil war, now in its third year, seeking shelter in neighboring countries such as Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq. At least half of the refugees — 1.1 million — are children. Of those, some 75 percent are under the age of 12, according to the U.N. High Commission on Refugees.

The 65-page report issued Nov. 29 by the UNHCR highlighted the plight of the children, who are growing up in fractured families, missing out on education as they turn to manual labor, sometimes under dangerous or exploitative conditions, the report said.

"If we do not act quickly, a generation of innocents will become lasting casualties of an appalling war," said Antonio Guterres, the agency's commissioner, during a visit to Lebanon's border town of Arsal.

With all the refugees competing for work, the children are attractive laborers.

"There are thousands like me, and they

prefer to employ boys, not men, because they will do whatever they tell them to and for less money," said Abu Mussab, 36, a refugee from a village near Syria's war-ravaged northern city of Aleppo.

When he arrived in Lebanon nine months ago, Abu Mussab sought shelter in a shanty town near the Syrian border where he used to stay as a migrant worker during harvest season, hoping to get his old job back and provide for his family of six.

He quickly found out he had no chance of getting work. But his oldest son did, and even though he's only 12, Mussab is now the sole provider for his parents and three younger siblings, earning \$65 a month working in a car repair shop.

"I had to find a way to survive," Abu Mussab said in an interview at a rented shack built of old billboard ads in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley. He spoke to The Associated Press on condition he would be identified only by his nickname for fear of harassment by the authorities.

In Jordan's sprawling Zaatari refugee camp, most of the 680 small shops employ children, the report said. A UNHCR assessment of refugee children living outside of the camp found that in 11 of the country's 12 provinces, nearly every second refugee household surveyed relied partly or entirely on income generated by a child.

'If we do not act quickly, a generation of innocents will become lasting casualties of an appalling war.'

Antonio Guterres

U.N. High Commission on Refugees

More Syrian refugee children are now out of school than enrolled in a formal education system, the agency's research found.

"I would rather see him go to school than to work every day," Abu Mussab said of his son, fighting back tears. "But there is no school for Syrians, and I can't teach my son anything, so maybe this way he will learn a skill."

During a recent visit to one of the refugee communities near the Lebanese eastern town of Zahleh, refugees rushed to a group of foreigners, asking them if they had come to offer them work and whether their children would start school anytime soon.

In the early afternoon, pickup trucks drive up to the informal settlements, stopping at each one and dropping off the children. Some of the girls jumped off a truck, running to their makeshift homes and giggling as if they had just come from school.

Fatima, 25, a refugee from a village near Aleppo, supports her three children, her elderly parents and her four younger siblings by working the fields for \$4 a day in the Bekaa. She takes along her mentally challenged cousin, 14, to help.

That money helps cover the annual rent of \$530 for the shack they live in near Zahleh.

"I am ashamed of taking handouts, and when I work, I feel like a slave," Fatima said. "People shout orders at me, and I listen to them because if I don't, they will take the tools away and won't take us on the truck the next day."

HUSSEIN MALLA/AP



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Clamp, not squirrel, to blame for power outage

IA PLEASANT HILL — MidAmerican Energy says it's found the real cause of a power outage that briefly affected a Des Moines suburb.

The company said that officials determined a burned clamp created the outage Saturday in Pleasant Hill. A clamp is a piece of equipment used on power lines.

The Pleasant Hill Police Department said earlier that a squirrel gnawed through wiring and caused the outage. Before that, there was confusion between the company and department about whether a car hit a utility pole.

About 1,900 customers were affected, but power has been restored to everyone.

Law furthers testing of driverless cars

MI LANSING — A new law that will allow companies to test driverless cars on Michigan roads will be a boost for the state's auto industry, according to Gov. Rick Snyder and the sponsor of the legislation.

Snyder signed the bills Friday, saying the legislation, which requires a person to be in the driverless vehicle to take the wheel if necessary, was needed to keep Michigan in the lead in vehicle research and design.

"Michigan is the automotive capital of the world," he said in a statement. "By allowing the testing of automated, driverless cars today, we will stay at the forefront in automotive technological advances that will make driving safer and more efficient in the future."

Police say naked man attacked 2 officers

NE OMAHA — Omaha authorities say a man found naked on a street has been accused of attacking two officers.

The Omaha Police Department said Travis Kitkowski, 20, was arrested shortly after midnight Sunday. Officers were responding to a radio call about a naked man chasing someone.

Officers spotted a naked Kitkowski and tried to engage him in conversation, but he did not respond. He is accused of then suddenly attacking officers. One officer suffered a concussion and another officer whom Kitkowski is suspected of biting sustained a hand injury.

Numerous officers were needed to restrain Kitkowski. He and the injured officers were taken to a local hospital.

Police said Kitkowski would be charged once he was released from the hospital.

Coast Guard issues warning over whales

HI HONOLULU — The U.S. Coast Guard is reminding the public to maintain a safe distance from humpback whales that are migrating to the Hawaiian islands.

Humpback whale season is generally from November to May, with the peak of the season occur-

THE CENSUS

11,000

The number of video games claimed by collector Michael Thomasson, whose 31-year hobby landed him in the "Guinness World Records 2014 Gamer's Edition." The official count at the time the record was awarded was 10,607. Thomasson, who estimates his collection is worth \$700,00 to \$800,000, said he averages about three hours a week of playing time.



JOHN EHLKE, WEST BEND (Wis.) DAILY NEWS/AP

Finishing touches

Emily Mueller, 10, adjusts the smile on a snowman she and her three friends built in Germantown, Wis.

ring during January and March. They come to Hawaii to mate, to calve and to nurse their young. They return to Alaska's colder waters in the summer months to feed and to rebuild their blubber supply.

Mariners are asked to keep boat speeds down when whales are in the area. The Coast Guard noted that a collision between a mariner and a 45-ton humpback whale can be catastrophic.

It is illegal to approach within 100 yards of a whale. Aircraft also are prohibited from flying within 1,000 feet of whales.

Officers use sandwich to resolve standoff

OR PORTLAND — Portland police officers used a sandwich to stop a naked man from jumping off the ledge of a parking structure.

According to the Portland Police Bureau, on Saturday morning officers found a naked man who appeared to be experiencing a behavioral health crisis, was cutting himself with a knife and threatened to jump off the ledge.

After the man informed officers he was hungry, they obtained a sandwich from a nearby hotel and used it to move the man away from the ledge.

Officers then were able to take the man into custody. He was being evaluated medically at an area hospital.

Investigators said criminal charges related to vandalism to vehicles in the parking structure may be forthcoming.

Naked man leads police on rooftop chase

CA STOCKTON — A naked man in Northern California led police on a bizarre chase Monday as he jumped from one rooftop to another and over before being arrested.

Officers arrived at a home on the 300 block of Edan Avenue in Stockton about noon with an arrest warrant for John Redmon, 36.

Redmon fled through the back door, officials said. The next time officers spotted him, he was on a rooftop and wearing no clothes.

Redmon jumped onto four rooftops in the course of the chase.

When police caught him, the paper said, officers had to use a baton to subdue him.

He was booked on suspicion of stalking, drug-related violations and resisting arrest.

Researcher aims to distract ravens

AZ SEDONA — The ravens that hang out at the Red Rock Ranger Station near Sedona are causing trouble, and a University of Arizona researcher is trying to figure out how to dis-

tract them.

Emily Cory has installed a puzzle box in the parking lot in hopes of keeping the birds occupied. To get a food reward, the clever birds will have to open a latch on the box.

If they figure it out, Cory plans to make the challenge harder by adding latches.

In the past 18 months, the birds have ripped out wiper blades and weatherstripping from U.S. Forest Service and employee vehicles.

Forest Service biologist Janie Agyagos has been compiling a dossier on the delinquent ravens. She said she has documented about \$700 in damage so far.

Wood in Make It Right's New Orleans homes rots

LA NEW ORLEANS — Actor Brad Pitt's Make It Right Foundation, which has built 100 energy-efficient new homes in the Hurricane Katrina-ravaged Lower 9th Ward, is considering legal action against the manufacturer of an innovative glass-infused wood that was used in some of the homes' outdoor steps and front porches.

Foundation spokeswoman Taylor Royle said the wood has begun rotting, despite being guaranteed for 40 years.

Royle said that construction crews used the wood product, called TimberSIL, to build decks and stairs for about 30 homes

from 2008 to 2010.

TimberSIL is described by its South Carolina-based manufacturer as offering "an effective barrier in lumber to rot, decay and common wood problems without using toxic ingredients."

Decks and steps built as recently as three years ago are showing signs of rot, with the wood taking on a dark gray tinge. "It was unable to withstand moisture, which obviously is a big problem in New Orleans," Royle said.

Mayor skips ball in favor of City Hall rehab

PA HARRISBURG — The next leader of Pennsylvania's struggling capital city said he won't have an inaugural ball.

Harrisburg Mayor-elect Eric Papenfuse said holding a fancy event after his swearing-in Monday would send the wrong message.

Instead, the Democrat is asking supporters to donate money to help fix up City Hall and the public safety building.

Papenfuse released a statement Friday saying the facilities need roof repairs, new flooring and phone and technology upgrades but there's no money in the budget for such renovations.

The cash-strapped city carries tremendous debt and was taken over by the state two years ago.

From wire reports

FACES

'Duck' son makes nice in Fox interview

"Duck Dynasty" star Willie Robertson chose not to quack back.

In one of his first chances to comment on the dust-up surrounding his outspoken father and reality TV co-star Phil Robertson, the younger Robertson had only kind words for the A&E cable TV network and New Year's wishes for the nation in an appearance Tuesday night on Fox News' "All-American New Year" special.

"We're just glad to be back to work, and A&E and us are fine," Willie Robertson said in a live appearance with wife Korie from Steamboat Springs, Colo.

Fox hosts Bill Hemmer and Elizabeth Hasselbeck gave him several chances to address the firestorm surrounding the suspension of his father over anti-gay comments, but without quite ducking the question, Willie Robertson chose not to take the bait either.

"We're looking forward to getting back to making some funny shows. It's a new year, so we're ready to break in a new year and start it all over again," Robertson said. "We're ready to move on, you know. I think we all learned a lot and we're just ready to move on, and the family's happy, and we're ready to go. I've got to make sure my guys are back there building duck calls."

'Prizzi's Honor' actor Joseph Ruskin dies

Film, television and stage actor Joseph Ruskin has died of natural causes at the age of 89.

Ruskin garnered 124 television credits, including "Mission: Impossible" and "Star Trek," and appeared in 25 films, among them "The Magnificent Seven," "Prizzi's Honor" and "Smokin' Aces." His last performance was on the stage this year in the Anteus Theatre Company's production of "The Crucible."

The Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists said Tuesday that Ruskin died at UCLA Santa Monica Hospital in California on Saturday.

Other news

■ Hollywood star **Angela Lansbury**, best known as the clue-collecting supersleuth in the television series "Murder, She Wrote," has been made a Dame of the British Empire. The 88-year-old actress was one of more than 1,000 people who were recognized by Queen Elizabeth II in the New Year's Honors List. For the first time since the Order of the British Empire was founded in 1917, most of them were women.

■ **Bon Jovi** not only has the year's top tour, but the rock band has achieved a career high. The New Jersey-based act's worldwide tour grossed \$259.5 million this year, topping Pollstar's annual top 20 list and setting a record for the band itself. **Beyonce** is second with \$188.6 million. **Pink**, **Justin Bieber** and **Bruce Springsteen** round out the top five.

From The Associated Press



NBC

The season 5 premiere of "Community" stars, from left to right, Danny Pudi, Yvette Nicole Brown, Joel McHale, Gillian Jacobs, Alison Brie and Donald Glover. The show returns to AFN-Prime on Jan. 3.

BY NEAL JUSTIN
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

During the past 18 months, NBC's "Community" has had to deal with a public dissing of the sitcom by its biggest star, Chevy Chase, who eventually left the show, and the unceremonious dumping of creator Dan Harmon, a mad genius who used social media once too often to throw his temper tantrums.

The behind-the-scenes hoopla might have plagued the show — but it also possibly saved it. "In a weird way, the drama behind the stage was sort of keeping 'Community' on people's minds," said Jim Rash, who plays the community college's flamboyant principal.

Rash returns for the fifth-season premiere, as does Harmon, whose comeback once seemed less likely than another season of football from Brett Favre.

The survival of "Community" might seem inexplicable, considering its low ratings — even in its best season, it only ranked 97th among prime-time shows. But it kept getting a reprieve because the struggling network didn't have anything else to put in its place. There's also motivation for Sony, the company that produces the show, because "Community" is just four episodes shy of 88, the unofficial total

Television show 'Community' lives to fight another day

that makes a series viable for the highly profitable world of syndication.

Harmon's Lazarus act is more of a head-scratcher. This is, after all, a man who spent part of his hiatus comparing NBC President Bob Greenblatt to Darth Vader and describing his Sony bosses as inhuman.

Much of the credit goes to series star Joel McHale, who worked as chief negotiator over a series of lunches. Then there's the fact that the fourth season, under the guidance of David Guarascio and Moses Port ("Just Shoot Me," "Happy Endings"), failed to capture what made "Community" so special: The ability to place relatable characters in a unique, often surreal world every week. Under the temporary team, it was a pleasant sitcom. Under Harmon, it was the edgiest, most unpredictable program on network television.

"Like with 'Breaking Bad' or 'Arrested Development,' you need that where-it-

came-from place," said McHale, whose character, the self-centered Jeff Winger, returns to school this season as a teacher rather than a student. "We had some really good stuff last year, but it did not have the direction that most other seasons had."

The sitcom, which only got a 13-episode pickup this season, will get back to pushing the envelope with a trip into David Fincher's imagination, a "Logan's Run" tribute and a follow-up to the classic Dungeons & Dragons episode. There's also a madcap roster of guest stars, including songwriter Paul Williams, Chris Elliot, "Justified's" Walton Goggins, Gina Gershon, "Breaking Bad" creator Vince Gilligan and a cameo that's so weird, you'll be questioning your own sanity.

Harmon seems well aware that his dedication to pop culture minutiae might alienate the masses whose idea of high-brow wit is grandma passing gas. He just doesn't care.

"I would rather die than make bad stuff for people, because I'm a terrible dishwasher and a terrible lover and a terrible pet owner and this is my only recourse to go to bed at night and feel like I did anything of merit," he said. "That fills me with emotions that sometimes get expressed in ways that you may read about in third-hand blogs and stuff, but overall, it allows me to fail upward."

NASA responds to Beyonce's Challenger sample use

BY CHRIS TALBOTT
The Associated Press

NASA officials say the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster "should never be trivialized" in response to a new song from Beyonce that features an audio sample recorded just after the craft exploded on takeoff in 1986, killing all seven crewmembers.

The space agency issued the statement late Tuesday after the pop star began to receive criticism from Challenger families and others for using the short sample that includes the words "major malfunction" as an allusion to a failed relationship.

"The Challenger accident is an important

part of our history; a tragic reminder that space exploration is risky and should never be trivialized," said the statement from Lauren B. Worley, NASA's press secretary. "NASA works every day to honor the legacy of our fallen astronauts as we carry out our mission to reach for new heights and explore the universe."

NASA's response came after Beyonce explained the use of the snippet in a statement to ABC News Tuesday that stopped short of an apology. The sample appears at the beginning of her song "XO" from her new album.

Among those critical of the sample was June Scobee Rodgers, widow of Challenger commander Dick Scobee. She told ABC in a

statement that she was disappointed and described the use of the sample as "emotionally difficult."

"My heart goes out to the families of those lost in the Challenger disaster," Beyonce's statement said. "The song 'XO' was recorded with the sincerest intention to help heal those who have lost loved ones and to remind us that unexpected things happen, so love and appreciate every minute that you have with those who mean the most to you. The songwriters included the audio in tribute to the unselfish work of the Challenger crew with hope that they will never be forgotten."

Beyonce's publicist did not return messages left Tuesday by The Associated Press.

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For information on Commercial Rates: CIV: 0631-3615-9013/0912 or DSN: 583-9013/9012

Announcements 040

SCAM FADS

Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classified advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags.

Some of the latest Scam fads are:

- Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.
- People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

Automotive 140

SELLER BEWARE

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

Automotive 140

Ford Explorer Front Brake Pads NEW, Explorer, 2003 \$35.00 Brand new in the box. Purchased for 2003 for Explorer 4.0L Flex Fuel Duratec 3000 Cmax-rake Pads - Front Part Number: DGC833, Notes: Premium ceramic
kid_19440@yahoo.com

Automotive 140

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Automotive 140

Ford, Mustang, 2013. Update your mustang with Salvaged 2013 Shelby GT500 parts. Complete 6 speed transmission package (all parts), performance differential with HP adjustable shocks, springs and stabilizer, complete exhaust, 19 (2) and 20 (2) inch wheels. Composit drive shaft. 15" Brembo brakes
hill@pjsnet.de hubert.h.hill.civ@gmail.com

General Altimax Arctic, Winter Tires, 2013 \$350.00 Brand new set (still in package) of General Altimax Arctic winter tires, mounted & balanced with silver hubcaps. Size 185/60R-15; 4 hole rims, 108mm fits for example, Ford Fiesta), carlosdeleon38@hotmail.com

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Audi, A6, 1998 \$4800.00 This is an Audi A6 4 door. With CD player and a base system Boom Box. comes with winter tires and a set of Rims for summer tires. Black painted rims. This car also has under the dashboard blue lights on both sides that lights up the front seat at night. Power windows, power locks, heated seats, Power 165km (121 kw), German Spec auto. child lock windows.
015227269001 jkpm1@me.com

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BMW, 325i SEDAN, 2003 \$6700.00 Very well maintained orient blue 5.0L Spec. BMW sedan with all the luxury extras. Navi US & GE, DVD, CD, TV, Radio, IPOD, blue tooth, w chrome 19" rims and tires, plus new 17" rims and tires incl. Leather inter. wood grain trim, sun roof, rubber mates fr rear, rubber mate liner in trunk, automatic V6, step-tronics trans, 184 hp. Gorgeous second or primary vehicle. 334-4520 rand y.l.griffin3.civ@gmail.com

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

BMW, 335i xDrive Sport Line, 2013 \$42500.00 I am PCSing soon The car has 14,500 miles on it and comes with 2 sets of tires on rims (winter & summer). Its Mineral Grey Metallic with Black Leather w red piping (stitching). This car is fully loaded with: Sport Automatic, Cold Weather Package, Driver Assistance Package, Parking Package, Premium Package, Premium Sound Package, Sport Line, Technology Package, Aluminum Trim, BMW Assist, and BMW Apps. 0171-337-2798 ryanmoore78@gmail.com

Chevrolet, Corvette 206, 2001 \$20000.00, with super low miles \$6,500. New front tires, rear tires are good. Needs nothing. In great shape. New transmission stage 2 build up, new stage 2 clutch, new torque tube, and rebuilt rear end. Super fast and handles amazing. Ready for autobahn and Nurburgring action. Only modifications are cold air intake and Borla catback exhaust which sounds great. We just had our 4th child and we don't have time to enjoy this car. Its being kept in my garage here in Bad Windsheim. If interested call or text 015151101561. skulz_neric@yahoo.com

Chevy, Colorado Truck, 2004 \$10633.00 Crew Cab 126.0" WB 4WD Condition: Good Engine 3.5L DOHC 5-CYLINDER MFI Transmission: 4-SPEED AUTOMATIC ELECTRONICALLY CONTROLLED WITH OVER-DRIVE TRAILER HITCH \$10,633.00 01627219277 chris.henon@armp.org

Chrysler, Grand Caravan, 2000 \$2730.00 New Inspection Good till Feb 2015. New Brake Lines, New Brake pads, New Tires, New Rotors, New Oil Pan, CD player, power windows, power locks, cruise control 015227269001 jkpm1@me.com

Chrysler, Challenger RT, 2009 \$26500.00 5.7 liter Hemi 380 HP, 5 Speed Automatic with manual shifting mode 27K miles, brand new dealer installed (Augs) engine with warranty New American Torq-Thrust 20 inch rims & tires DVD, Pre-sonic sound, voice recog, HDD, MP3, CD, Navigation, Sirius, black leather, Heated seats, Keyless FOB, Remote Start, Hugger Orange 06048-952218 roger.m.stegall.civ@mail.mil

Ford, F-150, 2009 \$25000.00 Supercab 4.6 liter V8 4x4 Truck 6F bed Power Windows & locks CD-player, low-package, side boards like new less than 46000 miles. 01627219277 chris.henon@armp.org

Ford, F 150 4X4 Crew Cab, 2001 \$4500.00 New tires needed, a little work Engine and tran great billy.carter.at@gmail.com

Honda, Civic HX, 1998 \$2000.00. I am only the 3rd owner since purchased new in 1998. Well maintained, full tune up every year. Heater, defrost, and AC work great. CD player, power mirrors, power windows. No body damage, good tires. Very dependable car, never had an issue with it.
015151101561 isahawk@yahoo.com

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Ford, Mustang Convertible, 2010 \$16000.00 OUTSTANDING CONDITION 11300 miles all maintenance performed at FORD dealership. USAREUR inspection good until Aug 2014 Power sandstone top \$16000, low mileage perfect condition. Have clear title. Averages 27 MPG on the Highway and 23 in town pretty good for a Muscle Car. Kona Blue Automatic Transmission and all other standard features including MP3 input. All weather car cover included. Just had the annual service at Ford in September and has All season tires no switching wheels and tires in the Winter. Call 015738439984 or 061457098 Please leave a message and please serious offers only. 015738439984

Honda, Civic EX, 2012 \$17500.00 For sale is a black. Local interested buyers can view the car at the Wiesbaden MWR Vehicle resale lot by the Entertainment Center. Feature Highlights: Automatic Transmission, 6,100 Miles Sony XNV Navigation with All of Europe Maps Backup Camera 6" powered Bazoooka Subwoofer Moon roof Plus all standard features of the EX trim level For more questions or to request additional pictures and please serious offers only. 015738439984 kylecox103@msn.com=

Honda, Odyssey Ex, 2001 \$3700.00 Yeah...192,000 miles, but still more reliable miles left. Would not give a second thought to comfortably and safely transporting six passengers on a trip through the Alps to Italy. - engine and interior in great condition. New transmission cost 130,000. Priced at low Kelly Blue Book due to scratches, dents, and dings following successful battles with German parking garages. Available 5 Jan 2014. \$3700 obo. scumlingmail.com

Jeep, Grand Cherokee Laredo, 2011 \$24000.00 I can't speak highly enough of this vehicle. I have come to the conclusion that I don't NEED it! Cloth interior and has basic accessories. SHAWN.MILES1982@GMAIL.COM

KIA, FORTE EX GDI, 2014 \$24000.00 AWESOME CAR!! SELLING BECAUSE WE GRE OUT OF IT!! everything that kia offers is in this car: navigation, sunroof, heated front and rear seats, cooled front driver seat, automatic everything UVO 17 wheels SILVER OUTSIDE BLACK LEATHER INSIDE!! EXCELLENT CONDITION!!! espita a.megan@yahoo.com

Mustang, GT Premium, 2007 \$18000.00 Grabber Orange 4.6 liter, air, abs, fog-lights, spoiler, cruise control package HAS THE ALL \$18,000.00. 01627219277 chris.henon@armp.org

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Ramstein Wiesbaden Vilseck
06371-8020410 06134-256963 09662-701139

Email: eclemons@hrblock.com

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Nissan, Sentra, 2010 \$8500.00 Very nice condition. Great car for traveling. Easy to drive. 75000 miles. Handles very well in all road conditions. Great gas mileage. Hochspeyer. Ph: 0152 389 741 86 486-8420, jcambr@yahoo.com

Autos for Sale - Italy 144

Volvo, XC 90, Ocean Race Edition, 2006 \$16000.00. Special Ocean-Race Edition, Euro Specs, 2.4 L D5 Diesel engine with 185 HP great on gas! Heated leather seats, manual transmission, Volvo high performance sound radio & cd-system with built in car phone (x-tra SIM-card required!). Multi-function steering wheel, navigation system, bi-xenon headlights, fog-lights, park-dista zone-control, trip-computer, 2-zone AC, cruise control, AWD, summer tires on 18" alu-rims + extra winter tires on 17" alu-rims. Last service in Aug (01)70 2 4 2 9 4 8 0 k r i s unleshthesky.com

jeffrey.kolb@yahoo.com

Person to Person 800

Stars and Stripes reserves the right to reject any free advertisement request. The use of full names is not permitted. You must be 18 years of age or older to place a free person to person advertisement.

Autos for Sale - Italy 144

Jeep, Wrangler Rubicon Unlimited 4x4, 2011 \$30000.00 Camp Darby, Italy - 2011 4 Door Jeep Rubicon Unlimited 4x4. 6 Speed Manual transmission, approx 25,000 miles, hard & soft top, cruise, touch screen navigation, dvd player, and much more. ASKING \$30,000 OBO. +393423529812 jeffrey.kolb@yahoo.com

jeffrey.kolb@yahoo.com

Motorcycles 164

Harley Davidson, Sportster 883XL, 2007 \$5800.00 with 1,852 Miles. Garage kept and looking new. Has never been dropped. Will pass inspection without a problem. Has a few upgrades all bought from Harley Davidson catalog. Upgrades are: Chrome LED taillight, Chrome Flame, smoked lens, turn signals, Front turn signals relocated, Rear turn signals relocated to license plate mount to allow for saddle bags (license plate mount is the European version to allow for the bigger license plate). Gloss black, flushed, gas cap, Willie G grips and shifter peg, Rear passenger pillion and pegs HD Security with Key Fob. All original parts are included in the deal in case you feel the need to change it back. Motorcycle cover included. Located in the Grafenwoehr area. Reasonable offers will be considered. 0154632077 alejandro_fuentecilla@yahoo.com

Kawasaki, Ninja 600, 2003 \$3000.00 located in ansbach great condition just had an oil change and new spark plugs! will include helmet jacket and cover has 10k miles on it selling due to pcs sylvannamariee@hotmail.com

Books 250

UMUC History of Europe in the Twentieth Century \$49.00 School book: A History of Europe in the Twentieth Century (Eric Dorn Brose) This last century of European history is situated between a violent and authoritarian past and the dawn of a more democratic and peaceful period—an era that may represent the future. Written in a vivid and accessible style, A History of Europe in the Twentieth Century examines the continent's descent into the turmoil of two world wars, the tense cold war standoff between the victors, and finally the beginning of ... kid_19440@yahoo.com

Furniture 510

Drawer Unit Birch Wood \$350.00 This is a good item for the kitchen. Has three drawers. and a cutting board on top. mass_wood_on_top_015227269001 jkpm1@me.com

Pets 820

Golden retriever, Chocolate Labrador, & West Highland Terrier. Delivery Possible. Call: 06029 996119

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FROM USA Overseas: 011-81-3-6385-3276

Autos for Sale - Korea 148

BMW, 528i, 2011 \$35000.00 Alpine white with no dings or scratches. Car is equipped with Premium and Sport Package, navigation, backup camera and parking sensors, etc. Installed Huperoptik tint all around to include front windshield and sunroof. (\$1500). Blue book prices are: Excellent \$37,059, Very Good \$36,259, Good \$35,359, Fair \$33,059, 010-6779-4448 jaehee.yu@gmail.com

Autos for Sale - Korea 148

FIAT 500 GUCCI, 2012 \$16900.00 Engine: 1.4-liter 14 Horsepower/Torque: 101 hp @ 6500 rpm/98 lb.-ft. @ 4000 rpm Wheelbase: 90.6 in. Length/Width/Height: 139.6 x 64.1 x 59.8 in. Tires: P185/55R15 Cargo volume: 9.5 cu. ft. Fuel economy: 27 mpg city/34 mpg highway/37.4 mpg test Curb weight: 2,434 lbs. Top 5 Reasons to buy this car! 1. You may want to drive a cousin to a Ferrari 2. Feel Italian like all the Romans who driven them 3. Economy 4. Ease of parking and handling 5. Fun to drive 010-6779-4448 minam66@gmail.com

Autos for Sale - Korea 148

Kia, Carnival Park, 2001 \$3700.00 Diesel 9 Pax van, legal for bus lane on express way. Keyless entry remote start, reverse sensor, very good condition, great for family trips in Korea. Navigation system included. Available immediately. 010-8569-2870 joekpon@hotmail.com

Nissan, Silvia, 2002 \$10000.00 Spec R SR20DET 101,xxx KM 6 Speed manual transmission Right hand drive 2nd owner Japan import 010 4601 0660

Autos for Sale - Korea 148

Lexus, ES300, 2003 \$6500.00 2003 LEXUS ES300 US Spec. Originally from California (no underbody rust) 170K highway miles Excellent running and clean condition Cannot hear any rattling noise All major maintenance is done already All of maintenance work history on file This car can run up to 300K miles easily Leaving country soon \$6500 OBO 010-9924-8332 010-9924-8332

Autos for Sale - Korea 148

Lexus, ES300, 2003 \$6500.00 2003 LEXUS ES300 US Spec. Originally from California (no underbody rust) 170K highway miles Excellent running and clean condition Cannot hear any rattling noise All major maintenance is done already All of maintenance work history on file This car can run up to 300K miles easily Leaving country soon \$6500 OBO 010-9924-8332 010-9924-8332

Autos for Sale - Korea 148

Toyota, Prius V, 2012 \$20000.00 Selling a 2012 Toyota Prius V. Car has approximately 14,000 miles on it. It is the size of a small SUV and fits 3 full size car seats in the rear seat even when a 6'11" guy is driving. Cargo area is large enough to fit a double side-by-side stroller. Kelly Blue book on the car in good condition is \$22,000. We are asking \$20,000 obo. The car costs approximately \$35 to fill up with gas and gets 400 miles to a tank. Its the perfect commuter or family car. sarah.s.evans@gmail.com

Autos for Sale - Korea 148

Toyota, Prius V three, 2012 \$20000.00 Selling a 2012 Toyota Prius V three. White with grey cloth interior, navigation, bluetooth, xenon lights, audio streaming, USB port, backup camera, Entune app suite that connects your smart phone to the audio system, keyless entry, push-button start, Car has approximately 14,000 miles on it. It is the size of a small SUV and fits 3 full size car seats. sarah.s.evans@gmail.com

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STARS AND STRIPES

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Stocks soared despite threats in '13

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The stock market was unstoppable in 2013. A U.S. government shutdown, fear of a default, the threat of military action in Syria, big budget cuts, and a European country looking for a bailout — any number of events might have derailed the stock market. But they didn't.

If skittish investors jumped out of stocks, they lost out. "2013 would have been good year to wear noise-canceling headphones," said Dean Junkans, chief investment officer for Wells Fargo Private Bank. "There were a lot of things that happened, and the market kept moving higher."

The Standard & Poor's 500 had its best year since 1997, ending up 29.6 percent. The Dow Jones industrial average also turned in a stellar performance. It closed up 26.5 percent, its best gain since 1995. Combined, the two indexes closed at record highs on 97 occasions.

Instead of worrying about the

wider world, investors focused on the Federal Reserve and the outlook for its stimulus program.

The Fed bought \$85 billion in government bonds each month in 2013. The purchases were designed to hold down long-term borrowing rates and encourage spending and investment. The stimulus also prodded investors to move from low-yielding bonds to stocks.

Investors reacted to every twist and turn of the program's fate. They sold stocks in the spring and summer over fears the central bank would slow its bond-buying prematurely. They

“There were a lot of things that happened, and the market kept moving higher.”

Dean Junkans
CIO, Wells Fargo Private Bank

worried that every bit of good economic news signaled the end of support. But in December, as hiring grew consistently stronger, investors were confident enough in the economy that they reacted positively when Fed officials finally decided to dial back purchases. The Fed also reassured the market by signaling it would keep short-term rates near zero. The stock market, which had hovered below all-time highs, returned to record territory.

Of course, it wasn't all about the Fed. Companies also played a part.

Despite a middling economy, U.S. corporate earnings rose for a fourth straight year. Total earnings for S&P 500 companies in 2013 are forecast to increase 5.37 percent to a record \$109.03 a share, according to data from S&P Capital IQ.

"It's tough to argue that companies are in anything other than good health," said Paul Atkinson, head of North American equities

at Aberdeen Asset Management, a global fund management company that oversees about \$3 billion.

Investors, emboldened by the Fed's support and low inflation, were willing to pay more for those earnings. The price-earnings ratio for the S&P 500 index, a measure of earnings compared with stock prices, rose to 15.4 from 12.6 at the start of 2013, according to FactSet data. By that measure, stocks grew more expensive, but weren't necessarily overvalued.

MARKET WATCH		
Dec. 31, 2013		
Dow Jones industrials	+72.37	16,576.66
Nasdaq composite	+22.39	4,176.59
Standard & Poor's 500	+7.29	1,848.36
Russell 2000	+3.05	1,163.64

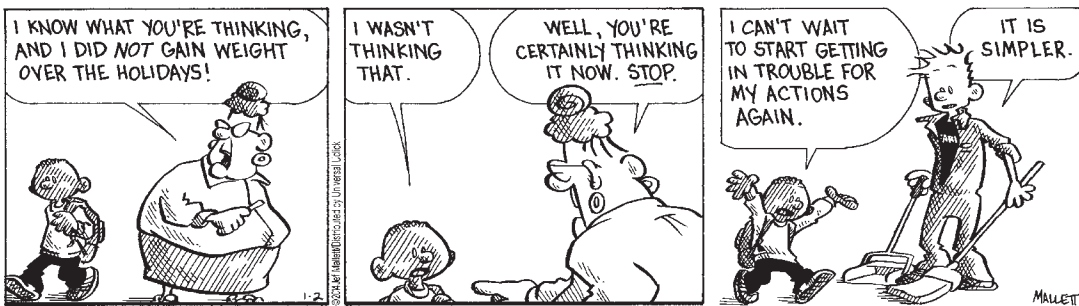
EXCHANGE RATES	
Military rates	
Euro costs (Jan. 2)	\$1.4152
Dollar buys (Jan. 2)	€0.7066
British pound (Jan. 2)	\$1.69
Japanese yen (Jan. 2)	102.00
South Korean won (Jan. 2)	1,029.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6565
Canada (Dollar)	1.0630
China (Yuan)	6.0540
Denmark (Krone)	5.4256
Egypt (Pound)	6.9510
Euro	\$1.3750/0.7273
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7543
Hungary (Forint)	216.15
Israel (Shekel)	3.4698
Japan (Yen)	105.31
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2832
Norway (Krone)	6.0780
Philippines (Peso)	44.41
Poland (Zloty)	3.02
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7505
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2624
South Korea (Won)	1,055.70
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8928
Thailand (Baht)	32.72
Turkey (Lira)	2.1490
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	
INTEREST RATES	
Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.08
3-month bill	0.07
30-year bond	3.94

WEATHER OUTLOOK

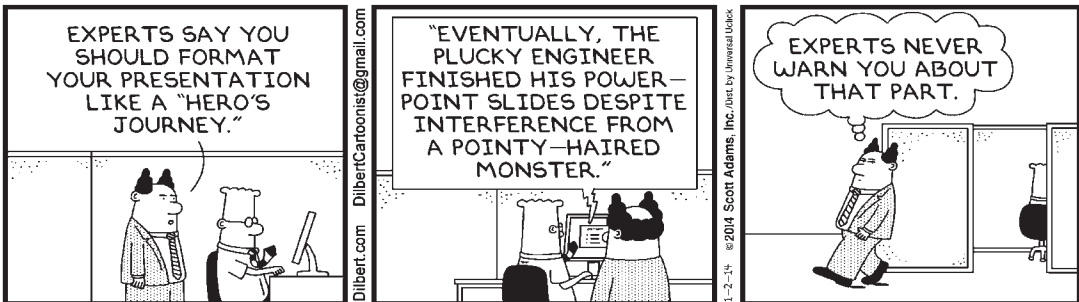


Thursday's US temperatures																							
City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chattanooga	47	37	Rain	Fort Wayne	18	16	Snow	Louisville	32	31	Snow	Pocatello	34	17	Cldy	Sioux City	9	-7	Clr
Abilene, Texas	46	27	Clr	Cheyenne	42	19	PCldy	Fresno	66	36	PCldy	Lubbock	51	19	Clr	Portland, Maine	10	6	Snow	Sioux Falls	1	-17	Clr
Akron, Ohio	21	20	Snow	Chicago	19	16	Snow	Goodland	46	16	Clr	Macon	58	44	Rain	Portland, Ore.	46	37	Cldy	South Bend	17	14	Cldy
Albany, N.Y.	15	14	Snow	Cincinnati	29	28	Snow	Grand Junction	33	8	PCldy	Madison	11	3	Cldy	Providence	30	20	Snow	Spokane	38	28	Cldy
Albuquerque	49	26	Clr	Cleveland	19	18	Snow	Grand Rapids	16	11	Cldy	Medford	44	30	Cldy	Pueblo	52	13	Clr	Springfield, Ill.	16	14	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	33	25	Snow	Colorado Springs	50	19	Clr	Great Falls	49	29	Clr	Memphis	34	33	Cldy	Raleigh-Durham	53	42	Rain	Springfield, Mo.	21	12	PCldy
Amarillo	48	20	Clr	Columbia, S.C.	55	44	Rain	Green Bay	11	1	Snow	Miami Beach	83	72	Cldy	Rapid City	36	11	PCldy	Syracuse	14	10	Snow
Anchorage	23	18	Cldy	Columbus, Ga.	57	45	Rain	Greensboro, N.C.	51	37	Rain	Midland-Odessa	51	28	Clr	Reno	51	26	PCldy	Tallahassee	65	54	Rain
Asheville	50	33	Rain	Columbus, Ohio	27	27	Snow	Harrisburg	34	28	Snow	Milwaukee	18	11	Snow	Richmond	51	35	Rain	Tampa	79	66	Rain
Atlanta	51	42	Rain	Concord, N.H.	12	7	Snow	Hartford Spgflld	23	18	Snow	Mpls-St Paul	-1	-9	Clr	Roanoke	49	33	Rain	Toledo	18	15	Snow
Atlantic City	44	32	Snow	Corpus Christi	57	44	Clr	Helena	45	25	Cldy	Missoula	38	22	Cldy	Rochester	13	12	Snow	Topeka	18	8	PCldy
Austin	51	37	Clr	Dallas-Ft Worth	46	30	Clr	Honolulu	82	68	PCldy	Mobile	59	50	Rain	Rockford	12	5	Cldy	Tucson	72	39	Clr
Baltimore	42	32	Rain	Dayton	24	23	Snow	Houston	55	46	Cldy	Montgomery	55	48	Rain	Sacramento	65	36	PCldy	Tulsa	29	15	Clr
Baton Rouge	53	48	Cldy	Daytona Beach	81	63	Rain	Huntsville	44	40	Rain	Nashville	36	33	Snow	St Louis	19	19	Cldy	Tupelo	42	41	Rain
Billings	41	20	Clr	Denver	50	20	PCldy	Indianapolis	22	19	Snow	New Orleans	57	52	Rain	St Petersburg	76	66	Rain	Waco	50	30	Clr
Birmingham	47	45	Rain	Des Moines	6	-4	Clr	Jackson, Miss.	48	45	Cldy	New York City	31	27	Snow	St Thomas	85	75	PCldy	Washington	44	33	Rain
Bismarck	6	-20	Clr	Detroit	16	13	Snow	Jacksonville	70	56	Rain	Newark	33	28	Snow	Salem, Ore.	46	37	Cldy	W. Palm Beach	83	73	Cldy
Boise	39	23	Cldy	Duluth	-3	-22	Clr	Juneau	34	31	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	53	41	Rain	Salt Lake City	33	18	Cldy	Wichita	28	11	Clr
Boston	27	18	Snow	El Paso	54	33	Clr	Kansas City	15	6	PCldy	North Platte	38	8	PCldy	San Angelo	47	29	Clr	Wichita Falls	40	24	Clr
Bridgeport	28	25	Snow	Elkins	38	26	Snow	Key West	81	73	Cldy	Oklahoma City	35	22	Clr	San Antonio	55	39	Clr	Wilkes-Barre	29	22	Snow
Brownsville	64	50	Clr	Erie	15	14	Snow	Knoxville	44	34	Rain	Omaha	11	-1	PCldy	San Diego	73	49	Clr	Wilmington, Del.	40	29	Snow
Buffalo	13	10	Snow	Eugene	44	34	Cldy	Lake Charles	56	50	PCldy	Orlando	80	62	Rain	San Francisco	62	45	PCldy	Yakima	38	24	Cldy
Burlington, Vt.	4	-2	Snow	Evansville	28	27	Snow	Lansing	15	11	Cldy	Paducah	29	26	Cldy	San Jose	67	40	PCldy	Youngstown	21	18	Snow
Caribou, Maine	-13	-29	Clr	Fairbanks	1	-10	Clr	Las Vegas	63	42	PCldy	Pendleton	46	29	Cldy	Santa Fe	46	19	Clr	National temperature extremes Hi: Tue., 80, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and West Palm Beach, Fla. Lo: Tue., -43, Embarrass, Minn.			
Casper	38	17	Clr	Fargo	-6	-25	Clr	Lexington	33	33	Snow	Peoria	12	10	Cldy	St Ste Marie	4	-10	Clr				
Charleston, S.C.	59	50	Rain	Flagstaff	51	17	Clr	Lincoln	16	2	PCldy	Philadelphia	38	31	Snow	Savannah	60	50	Rain				
Charleston, W.Va.	38	31	Snow	Flint	14	10	Cldy	Little Rock	40	29	Clr	Phoenix	76	48	Clr	Seattle	48	41	Rain				
Charlotte, N.C.	54	38	Rain	Fort Smith	34	24	Clr	Los Angeles	80	48	PCldy	Pittsburgh	26	25	Snow	Shreveport	46	36	Clr				

Frazz



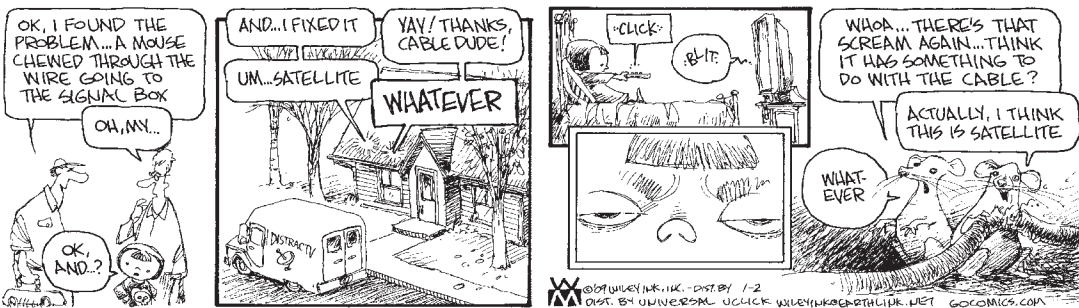
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



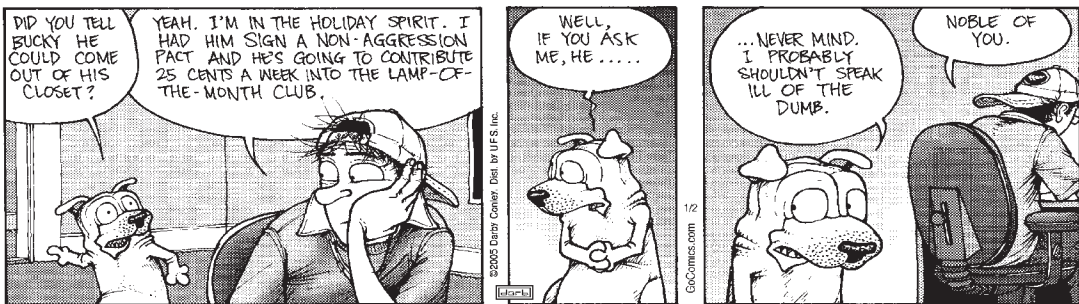
Non Sequitur



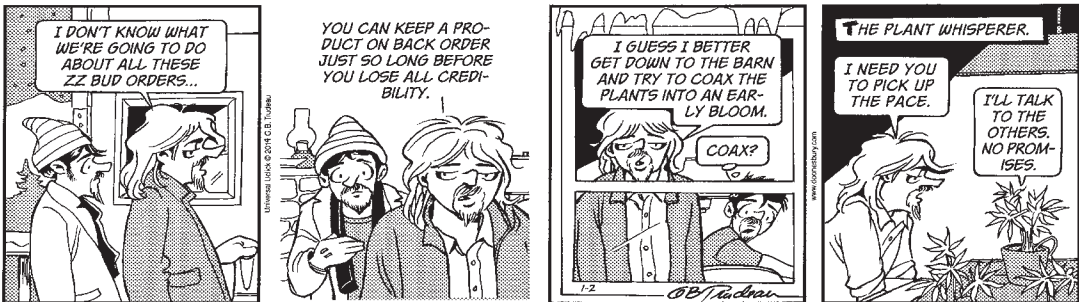
Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
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24	25	26			27				28		29	30
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41	42						43			44	45	46
47					48	49	50					
51					52					53		
54					55					56		

ACROSS

- 1 Horse's foot
5 Impudent
9 Unruly bunch
12 "Born Free" lioness
13 Water pitcher
14 Rage
15 Years : decades :: centuries : —
17 Michele of "Glee"
18 Combined resources
19 Honeydew, e.g.
21 On the other hand
22 Hindu pundit
24 Describe
27 Chowd down
28 "Do — others ..."
31 Schuss
32 Third letter
33 Very long time
34 Farmer's home?
36 Stashed
37 Sea eagle
38 Burdened
40 Commercial
41 Complaint
43 Accustoms
47 Flightless bird
48 Barbie's middle name
51 Spring mo.
52 Elliptical
53 Vortex
54 Homer's neighbor

DOWN

- 23 Do gardening
24 "Acid"
25 Eisenhower
26 Very large number to Brits
27 Rue the run
29 Heavy weight
30 "The loneliest number"
35 Track circuit
37 Brought out
39 Minion of Satan
40 Black bird
41 Fed agt
42 Lasso
43 Troubles
44 Modify fully
45 Make — meet
46 Eyelid problem
49 "— got it!"
50 Legislation

Answer to Previous Puzzle

E	D	D	A		R	O	W		S	T	A	B
B	I	O	S		A	W	E		T	O	G	A
B	R	U	C	E	L	E	E		O	M	E	N
S	T	R	O	L	L		D	I	M	M	E	D
				T	A	I		S	T	A		
H	A	J		N	E	T		E	C	L	A	T
A	L	A	S		S	I	R		H	E	R	E
W	A	S	T	E		E	O	N		E	T	A
			O	R	A	L		L	O	T		
S	O	N	A	T	A		L	O	W	I	N	G
L	U	L	U		S	P	I	K	E	L	E	E
U	S	E	S		S	E	C		R	I	O	T
G	E	E	S		O	A	K		K	E	N	S

1-2

CRYPTOQUIP

U M W X E L R Q B X E J W R L B J W
D U E E R X Y , Y R Y V J W L J M
S X J S V X W A X Q H J D X W J

W A X E X Y Y R Q B E X H X S W R J Q ?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A NEW YEAR
ROLLS AROUND, DO YOU THINK PEOPLE LIKE
OBAMA AND BUSH MAKE PRES-OLUTIONS?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals D

SCOREBOARD



Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules. [myafn.net](#)

Pro football

NFL playoffs
Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday's games
Kansas City at Indianapolis
New Orleans at Philadelphia
Sunday's games
San Diego at Cincinnati
San Francisco at Green Bay
Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 11
Green Bay, San Francisco or New Orleans at Seattle
Cincinnati, Indianapolis or Kansas City at New England
Sunday, Jan. 12
Philadelphia, Green Bay or San Francisco at Carolina
Indianapolis, Kansas City or San Diego at Denver

Deals

Tuesday's transactions
BASEBALL
American League
HOUSTON ASTROS — Agreed to terms with RHP Jesse Crain on a one-year contract.
BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
NEW ORLEANS PELICANS — Waived F Lou Amundson.
NEW YORK KNICKS — Signed F Jeremy Tyler from Erie (NBADL). Released G Chris Smith.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS — Signed WR Mike Thomas to a reserve/future contract.
BALTIMORE RAVENS — Signed TEs Matt Furstenburg and Nathan Overbay (TE), WRs Gerrard Sheppard and Kamar Aiken, DT Cody Larsen, OT David Mims, QB Nick Stephens and C Reggie Stephens to reserve/future contracts.
BUFFALO BILLS — Signed DB Brandon Burton to a reserve/future contract.
CHICAGO BEARS — Signed P Drew Butler and RB Willie Carter to reserve/future contracts.
DALLAS COWBOYS — Signed WR Tim Benford, G Ray Dominguez, WR Lance Lewis, DE Caesar Rayford, LB Jonathan Stewart and OT John Wetzel to reserve/future contracts.
GREEN BAY PACKERS — Signed G Lanier Coleman to the practice squad.
HOUSTON TEXANS — Signed WRs Rico Richardson, Andy Cruse and Uzoma Nwachukwu; DB Steven Terrell; and CB Loyce Means to reserve/future contracts.
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Signed WRs Jabin Sambrano and Chad Bumphis, DEs Will Perlick and D'Aundre Reed, OT DeMarcus Love, QB Matt Scott, TE Brandon Barden and RB Shaun Chapas to reserve/future contracts.
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Placed LB James-Michael Johnson on injured reserve. Signed LB Robert James.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed C Matt Stankiewicz. Signed WR Greg Orton to the practice squad.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Signed RB Alvester Alexander, WRs Justin Brown and Kashif Moore, Gs Bryant Browning and Chris Hubbard, S Ross Ventrone and LB Kion Wilson to reserve/future contracts.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS — Signed LW Kerby Rychel to a three-year, entry-level contract.
OTTAWA SENATORS — Recalled F Mark Stone from Binghamton (AHL) on an emergency basis.
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Reassigned F Pierre-Cedric Labrie to Syracuse (AHL).
TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS — Signed D Dion Phaneuf to a seven-year contract.
WINNIPEG JETS — Agreed to terms with F Ryan Olsen on a three-year, two-way, entry-level contract.
COLLEGE
FLORIDA STATE — Signed football coach Jimbo Fisher to a three-year contract extension through 2018.

Boxing

Fight schedule
Jan. 3
At Target Center, Minneapolis, Argenis Mendez vs. Rances Barthelemy, 12, for Mendez's IBF super featherweight title; Caleb Truax vs. Derek Ennis, 10, middleweights.
Jan. 10
At the Emerald Queen Casino in Tacoma, Washington, Arash Usmanee vs. Juan Antonio Rodriguez, 10, super featherweights.

College football

Bowl schedule
Saturday, Dec. 21
New Mexico Bowl
At Albuquerque
Colorado State 48, Washington State 45
Las Vegas Bowl
Southern Cal 45, Fresno State 20
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
San Diego State 49, Buffalo 24
New Orleans Bowl
Louisiana-Lafayette 24, Tulane 21
Monday, Dec. 23
Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
East Carolina 37, Ohio 20
Tuesday, Dec. 24
Hawaii Bowl
At Honolulu
Oregon State 38, Boise State 23
Thursday, Dec. 26
Little Caesars Pizza Bowl
At Detroit
Pittsburgh 30, Bowling Green 27
Poinsettia Bowl
At San Diego
Utah State 21, Northern Illinois 14
Friday, Dec. 27
Military Bowl
At Annapolis, Md.
Marshall 31, Maryland 20
Texas Bowl
At Houston
Syracuse 21, Minnesota 17
Fight Hunger Bowl
At San Francisco
Washington 31, BYU 16
Saturday, Dec. 28
Pinstripe Bowl
At New York
Notre Dame 29, Rutgers 16
Belk Bowl
At Charlotte, N.C.
North Carolina 39, Cincinnati 17
Russell Athletic Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Louisville 36, Miami 9
Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
Kansas State 31, Cincinnati 14
Monday, Dec. 30
Armed Forces Bowl
At Fort Worth, Texas
Navy 24, Middle Tennessee 6
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Mississippi 25, Georgia Tech 17
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
Oregon 30, Texas 7
Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Texas Tech 37, Arizona State 23
Tuesday, Dec. 31
AdvoCare V100 Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
Arizona 42, Boston College 19
Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
UCLA 42, Virginia Tech 12
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
Mississippi State 44, Rice 7
Chick-fil-A Bowl
At Atlanta
Texas A&M 52, Duke 48
Wednesday, Jan. 1
Heart of Dallas Bowl
At Dallas
UNLV (7-5) vs. North Texas (8-4)
Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Nebraska (8-4) vs. Georgia (8-4)
Capital One Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Wisconsin (9-3) vs. South Carolina (10-2)
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Iowa (8-4) vs. LSU (9-3)
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
Stanford (11-2) vs. Michigan State (12-1)
Fiesta Bowl
At Glendale, Ariz.
Baylor (11-1) vs. UCF (11-1)
Thursday, Jan. 2
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Alabama (11-1) vs. Oklahoma (10-2)
Friday, Jan. 3
Orange Bowl
At Miami
Ohio State (12-1) vs. Clemson (10-2)
Cotton Bowl
At Arlington, Texas
Missouri (11-2) vs. Oklahoma State (10-2)
Saturday, Jan. 4
BBVA Compass Bowl
At Birmingham, Ala.
Vanderbilt (8-4) vs. Houston (8-4)
Sunday, Jan. 5
GoDaddy.com Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
Arkansas State (7-5) vs. Ball State (10-2)
Monday, Jan. 6
BCS National Championship
At Pasadena, Calif.
Florida State (13-0) vs. Auburn (12-1)
Saturday, Jan. 18
East-West Shrine Classic
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
East vs. West
Saturday, Jan. 25
Senior Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
South vs. North
FCS playoffs
Championship
Saturday, Jan. 4
At FC Dallas Stadium
Frisco, Texas
North Dakota State (14-0) vs. Towson (13-2)

College basketball

Tuesday's men's scores
EAST
Dartmouth 85, Lesley 47
Georgetown 61, DePaul 54
Michigan St. 79, Penn St. 63
Pittsburgh 58, Albany (NY) 46
Princeton 73, Kent St. 68
Randolph 67, NY Maritime 45
Richmond 70, Northeastern 66
Saint Joseph's 71, Binghamton 44
Seton Hall 81, Providence 80, 2OT
Syracuse 70, E. Michigan 48
Utica 71, Cortland St. 67
Wilmington (Del.) 77, Shippensburg 67
SOUTH
Duke 86, Elon 48
Louisville 90, UCF 65
Maryland 70, NC Central 56
Memphis 88, South Florida 73
North Carolina 84, UNC Wilmington 51
Pikeville 123, Tenn. Temple 74
SC-Upstate 94, North Greenville 61
UNC Asheville 80, Montreat 41
Virginia Tech 82, Md.-Eastern Shore 66
MIDWEST
Akron 77, Coppin St. 66
Concordia (Moor.) 88, Crown (Minn.) 72
Creighton 67, Marquette 49
Haskell Indian Nations 72, Baker 62
Illinois 83, Indiana 80, OT
Iowa 67, Nebraska 57
Iowa St. 99, N. Illinois 63
Kansas St. 72, George Washington 55
Ohio St. 78, Purdue 69
Spring Arbor 68, Siena Heights 64
Villanova 76, Butler 73, OT
Wis.-La Crosse 73, Gustavus 58
Xavier 70, St. John's 60
SOUTHWEST
Houston 75, UConn 71
North Texas 61, Texas A&M 41
UTSA 64, Cameron 56
FAR WEST
Denver 83, St. Francis (Pa.) 61
TOURNAMENTS
Thomas More Classic
Second Round
Centre 84, Cincinnati Christian 73
Hope 83, Thomas More 80
UW-Eau Claire Holiday Classic
Second Round
Wis.-Eau Claire 70, Northwestern (Minn.) 65
Wis.-River Falls 76, Northland 46
EXHIBITION
Lakeland 81, Finlandia 76
Tuesday's women's scores
EAST
Fairfield 81, Niagara 77
George Washington 114, Bluefield St. 55
Iona 65, St. Peter's 61
Manhattan 65, Monmouth (NJ) 59
Marist 57, Canisius 49
Rider 77, Siena 63
Seton Hall 80, Stony Brook 65
SOUTH
Appalachian St. 54, UNC Wilmington 47
Marshall 86, Davis & Elkins 72
Mobile 66, LSU-Shreveport 54
NC A&T 58, Elon 57
Sewanee 53, Washington & Lee 47
Xavier (NO) 65, Faulkner 51
MIDWEST
Belmont 81, SE Missouri 74
Ill.-Chicago 66, N. Illinois 54
Lakeland 71, Finlandia 61
Loyola of Chicago 77, Chicago St. 63
Michigan-Dearborn 68, Dallas 67, OT
Nebraska-Omaha 80, Doane 72
South Dakota 81, Valparaiso 70
Villanova 63, Marquette 61
Wis.-Superior 75, St. Scholastica 63
SOUTHWEST
South Florida 77, Houston 54
Men's schedule
Thursday's games
EAST
Holy Cross at Boston U.
Rhode Island at Brown
American U. at Bucknell
Women's schedule
Thursday's games
EAST
Florida St. at Pittsburgh
Bucknell at American
Vermont at Cornell
Saint Louis at Fordham
George Mason at George Washington
La Salle at Rhode Island
SOUTH
Lehigh at Colgate
Appalachian St. at Duquesne
Army at Lafayette
Fairfield at Marist
Siena at Monmouth (NJ)
Niagara at Rider
Manhattan at St. Peter's
Navy at Loyola (Md.)
Iona at Quinnipiac
SOUTH
Hofstra at Tulane
The Citadel at Radford
W. Kentucky at South Alabama
East Carolina at Campbell
Gardner-Webb at Delaware St.
FIU at Florida A&M
Troy at Georgia St.
UNC Greensboro at W. Carolina
Penn at George Mason
UT-Martin at Austin Peay
Jacksonville St. at Belmont
Md.-Eastern Shore at Mississippi St.
SE Missouri at Murray St.
Wofford at Samford
Tennessee Tech at Tennessee St.
SE Louisiana at McNeese St.
New Orleans at Nicholls St.
Sam Houston St. at Northwestern St.
MIDWEST
Marshall at Akron
IPFW at Bowling Green
Judson at IUPUI
Michigan at Minnesota
Wisconsin at Northwestern
Siena Heights at W. Michigan
Oakland at Wright St.
E. Kentucky at E. Illinois
Cleveland St. at Green Bay
Youngstown St. at Milwaukee
Morehead St. at SIU-Edwardsville
CS Northridge at South Dakota
Illinois St. at Missouri St.
Wichita St. at S. Illinois
Ill.-Chicago at Valparaiso
S. Utah at North Dakota
SOUTHWEST
Texas A&M-CC at Cent. Arkansas
Houston Baptist at Oral Roberts
UALR at Texas St.
Arkansas St. at Texas-Arlington
Lamar at Stephen F. Austin
FAR WEST
Washington at Arizona St.
Oregon at Utah
Saint Mary's (Cal.) at Gonzaga
Texas-Pan American at Grand Canyon
N. Arizona at Montana
California at Stanford
E. Washington at Weber St.
Portland St. at Idaho St.
Sacramento St. at Montana St.
Washington St. at Arizona
Oregon St. at Colorado
UMKC at Idaho
Pacific at Portland
Loyola Marymount at San Francisco
Pepperdine at Santa Clara
Simpson (Cal.) at UC Davis
Waldorf at UC Riverside
Morgan St. at UC Irvine
Friday's games
EAST
S. Dakota St. at Buffalo
Georgia at George Washington
SOUTH
CCSU at Coastal Carolina
Lees-McRae at High Point
Mount St. Mary's at Norfolk St.
SC State at South Carolina
Drexel at Southern Miss.
Stony Brook at VCU
MIDWEST
Oakland City at Ball St.
Marygrove at Cent. Michigan
Bethune-Cookman at N. Illinois
SOUTHWEST
Savannah St. at Baylor
FAR WEST
Nebraska-Omaha at Hawaii
Clemson at NJIT
Lafayette at Army
Loyola (Md.) at Navy
Colgate at Lehigh
Boston U. at Holy Cross
SOUTH
James Madison at North Carolina
Kentucky at Alabama
Bluefield St. at N.C. Central
Delaware St. at Howard
Sam Houston St. at Northwestern St.
Old Dominion at Duke
SE Louisiana at McNeese St.
New Orleans at Nicholls St.
High Point at Coastal Carolina
Liberty at Charleston Southern
Mississippi St. at Florida
Jacksonville at Kennesaw St.
Lipscomb at ETSU
Longwood at Presbyterian
N. Kentucky at S.C.-Upstate
Bethune-Cookman at Florida Atlantic
UMass at VCU
North Florida at Mercer
Radford at Gardner-Webb
Missouri at Mississippi
LSU at Tennessee
East Carolina at Coll. of Charleston
Saint Joseph's at Richmond
Winthrop at UNC Asheville
Tennessee Tech at Middle Tennessee
Georgia at Vanderbilt
MIDWEST
Bradley at S. Illinois
Culver-Stockton at W. Illinois
S. Dakota St. at Notre Dame
Wright St. at Dayton
Iowa at Indiana
Purdue at Ohio St.
S. Utah at North Dakota
N. Colorado at N. Dakota St.
Idaho at UMKC
Seattle at Chicago St.
Loyola of Chicago at Evansville
Baylor at Kansas St.
West Virginia at Kansas
SOUTHWEST
Houston Baptist at Oral Roberts
Arkansas St. at UT Arlington
UALR at Texas St.
Texas A&M-CC at Cent. Arkansas
Lamar at Stephen F. Austin
UTEP at Texas A&M
Oklahoma at Texas Tech
Iowa St. at TCU
Grand Canyon at Texas-Pan American
South Carolina at Arkansas
Texas at Oklahoma St.
FAR WEST
Simpson at UC Davis
La Verne at UC Irvine
Montana at N. Arizona
Northwestern at Nebraska
Saint Mary's (Cal.) at San Diego
Colorado St. at San Diego St.
Pacific at BYU
Weber St. at E. Washington
Idaho St. at Portland St.
CSU Bakersfield at CS Northridge
Santa Clara at Pepperdine
San Francisco at Loyola Marymount
Montana St. at Sacramento St.
Friday's games
EAST
Saint Peter's at Niagara
Rider at Quinnipiac
New Hampshire at Brown
Iona at Canisius
Fairfield at Monmouth (N.J.)
Manhattan at Marist
SOUTH
UNC Wilmington at Charlotte
N.C. A&T at William & Mary
MIDWEST
N. Iowa at Indiana St.
Wisconsin at Illinois
Roosevelt at Ill.-Chicago
Drake at Illinois St.
SOUTHWEST
Incarnate Word at Rice
FAR WEST
Oregon at Stanford
Utah at UCLA
Denver at Cal State Fullerton
Gonzaga at Portland
Arizona at Washington
Arizona St. at Washington St.
Colorado at Southern Cal
Oregon St. at California

AP spotlight

Jan. 2
1961 — George Blanda passes for three touchdowns and kicks a field goal and the extra points to give the Houston Oilers a 24-16 victory over the Los Angeles Chargers in the first American Football League championship game.
1966 — Jim Taylor and Paul Hornung gain 201 yards on four inches of snow at Lambeau Field to lead the Green Bay Packers to a 23-12 victory over the Cleveland Browns and their third championship in five years.
1982 — Rolf Benirschke's 29-yard field goal at 13:52 of overtime ends one of the wildest and highest-scoring playoff games as the San Diego Chargers beat the Miami Dolphins 41-38.
1985 — Nevada-Las Vegas beats Utah State 142-140 in triple overtime as both teams set an NCAA record for total points. The Runnin' Rebels score a record 93 points in the second half, and coach Jerry Tarkanian gets his 600th victory.
1987 — No. 2 Penn State beats No. 1 Miami 14-10 in the Fiesta Bowl for the national championship.
1995 — Florida State beats Florida 23-17 in the Sugar Bowl to give coach Bobby Bowden an NCAA-record 10 consecutive bowl wins.
1996 — No. 1 Nebraska demolishes No. 2 Florida 62-24 in the Fiesta Bowl, making them the first repeat champions in 16 years.

Pro baseball

Calendar
Jan. 8 — Hall of Fame voting announced.
Jan. 14 — Salary arbitration filing.
Jan. 15-16 — Owners' meetings, Paradise Valley, Ariz.
Jan. 17 — Salary arbitration figures exchanged.
Feb. 1-21 — Salary arbitration hearings, St. Petersburg, Fla.
Feb. 13 — Voluntary reporting date for pitchers, catchers and injured players.
Feb. 18 — Voluntary reporting date for other players.
Feb. 25 — Mandatory reporting date.
March 12 — Last day to place a player on unconditional release waivers and pay 30 days termination pay instead of 45 days.
March 22-23 — Los Angeles Dodgers vs. Arizona, Sydney.
March 26 — Last day to request unconditional release waivers on a player without having to pay his full 2014 salary.
March 30 — Opening Day for other teams. Active rosters reduced to 25 players.
June 5 — Amateur draft.
July 15 — All-Star Game, Minneapolis.
July 18 — Deadline for amateur draft picks to sign.
July 27 — Hall of Fame inductions, Cooperstown, N.Y.

NFL



TIM SHARP/AP

After breaking up a pass to Cowboys wide receiver Dez Bryant in the end zone, Eagles cornerback Brandon Boykin, left, celebrates with Bradley Fletcher during Philadelphia's 24-22 victory Sunday. The win clinched the NFC East championship for the Eagles, who finished dead last in the division a year ago.

Eagles look toward playoffs after worst-to-first rebound

BY ROB MADDI
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA
By the time they reached the locker room after winning the NFC East title and completing a worst-to-first journey under rookie coach Chip Kelly, the Philadelphia Eagles already were thinking ahead to their playoff opponent. They'll have plenty of time to reflect on their accomplishments later.

"The way they shifted their focus to the next game just minutes after we won was most impressive to me," general manager Howie Roseman said Monday night on his radio show.

The Eagles went from 4-12 to 10-6, a remarkable turnaround after a miserable ending with Andy Reid last year. The make-over started with the hiring of Kelly, the hotshot college coach who needed convincing to leave Oregon.

While most people outside the organization expected this to be a rebuilding season in Philadelphia, players and coaches bought into Kelly's way right from the start and accelerated the process.

"It was evident to me on April 1 when I got here with these guys and got a chance to be with them for the first day that they were kind of the mind-set: 'Whatever it takes, what do you want us to do and where do we got to be and how are we going to do it,' and that's a credit to them," Kelly said.

"That's why we are where we are, because they are the ones that play. They are the ones that go out there every single day. They are



NFC wild-card playoffs
New Orleans Saints (11-5)
at Philadelphia Eagles (10-6)
 AFN-Sports
 2 a.m. Sunday CET
 10 a.m. Sunday JKT

the ones that train. They are the ones that have done everything as a staff that we have asked them to do and the results are everything that they put into, and that's the great thing about this game is that you can't fake football. You get out of it exactly what you put into it and these guys put in an unbelievable effort and it's paying off for them on the field."

The Eagles advanced by beating Dallas 24-22 and will host the New Orleans Saints (11-5) on Saturday night in their first playoff game since Michael Vick threw an interception in the end zone in the final minute of a 21-16 loss to the Green Bay Packers on Jan. 9, 2011.

Win or lose, it's been a successful season. But nobody is thinking that way around here.

"That's not how we are built or wired," Kelly said. "It's what's the next challenge and what's the next opportunity, and the great thing about where we are right now is if you win, you get to play again. So I think if you get caught up looking back at what happened or where you were, I think that's

just not how we're wired." The Eagles are 2(-point favorites over New Orleans. A wins sends them to Carolina (12-4) on Jan. 12. But they have to beat Drew Brees and the Saints first. Everyone from Kelly and Roseman to owner Jeffrey Lurie have already called on fans to be loud and make it an uncomfortable environment for the Saints, who were 3-5 on the road.

"I think this is big for the city and for this franchise," NFL rushing champion LeSean McCoy said. "It's amazing that this is Coach Kelly's first year and we made the playoffs. We're going in the right direction, but everyone knows that each week is important. We can't get too hyped about this game. We're in the playoffs, but we should be in the playoffs. We should be the division champs. Now we have to go out there and get it done Saturday."

It took some record-setting performances for the Eagles to get this far this fast. McCoy had a franchise-best 1,607 yards rushing and 2,146 yards from scrimmage.

Nick Foles had the best TD-interception ratio (13:5-1) in NFL history, the third-highest passer rating (119.2) in league history and the club's best completion percentage (64.04). The offense set team records for (442), total net yards (6,676), touchdowns (53), and gross yards passing (4,406).

And, they're not done yet. "Chip and the coaching staff have done a great job," Foles said. "The players have done a great job of buying in and when adversity happens, guys really stay together. We lean on each other."

Statistics

AFC individual leaders												NFC individual leaders											
Quarterbacks						Quarterbacks																	
	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int		Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int												
P. Manning, DEN	659	450	5477	55	10	Foles, PHL	317	203	2891	27	2												
P. Rivers, SD	544	378	4478	32	11	J. McCown, CHI	224	149	1829	13	1												
Roethlisberger, PIT	584	375	4261	28	14	A. Rodgers, GB	290	193	2536	17	6												
Ale. Smith, KC	508	308	3313	23	7	Brees, NO	650	446	5162	39	12												
Dalton, CIN	586	363	4296	33	20	R. Wilson, SEA	407	257	3357	26	9												
Brady, NE	628	380	4343	25	11	Romo, DAL	535	342	3828	31	10												
Luck, IND	570	343	3822	23	9	Kaepernick, SF	416	243	3197	21	8												
Fitzpatrick, TEN	350	217	2454	14	12	S. Bradford, STL	262	159	1687	14	4												
Tannehill, MIA	588	355	3913	24	17	M. Ryan, ATL	651	439	4515	26	17												
Keenum, HOU	253	137	1760	9	6	Cutler, CHI	355	224	2621	19	12												
Rushers						Rushers																	
	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD		Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD												
J. Charles, KC	259	1287	4.97	46	12	L. McCoy, PHL	314	1607	5.12	57t	9												
Ry. Mathews, SD	285	1255	4.40	51	6	Forte, CHI	289	1339	4.63	55	9												
Chr. Johnson, TEN	279	1077	3.86	30t	6	A. Morris, WAS	276	1275	4.62	45t	7												
Moreno, DEN	241	1038	4.31	31	10	A. Peterson, MIN	279	1266	4.54	78t	10												
Spiller, BUF	201	927	4.61	77	2	M. Lynch, SEA	301	1257	4.18	43	12												
F. Jackson, BUF	207	896	4.33	59	9	Lacy, GB	284	1178	4.15	60	11												
L. Bell, PIT	244	860	3.52	43	8	Gore, SF	276	1128	4.09	51	9												
Ivory, NYJ	182	833	4.58	69	3	D. Murray, DAL	217	1124	5.18	43	9												
Jones-Drew, JAX	234	803	3.43	48	5	Re. Bush, DET	223	1006	4.51	39	4												
Ridley, NE	178	773	4.34	29	7	Stacy, STL	250	973	3.89	40t	7												
Receivers						Receivers																	
	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD		No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD												
Ant. Brown, PIT	110	1499	13.6	56	8	Garcon, WAS	113	1346	11.9	53t	5												
And. Johnson, HOU	109	1407	12.9	62t	5	B. Marshall, CHI	100	1295	13.0	44	12												
Edelman, NE	105	1056	10.1	44	6	De. Bryant, DAL	93	1233	13.3	79	13												
A. Green, CIN	98	1426	14.6	82t	11	Jeffery, CHI	89	1421	16.0	80t	7												
Ke. Wright, TEN	94	1079	11.5	45	2	J. Graham, NO	86	1215	14.1	58t	16												
De. Thomas, DEN	92	1430	15.5	78t	14	J. Nelson, GB	85	1314	15.5	76t	8												
J. Gordon, CLE	87	1646	18.9	95t	9	Boldin, SF	85	1179	13.9	63	7												
Decker, DEN	87	1288	14.8	61	11	Douglas, ATL	85	1067	12.6	80t	2												
Hilton, IND	82	1083	13.2	73t	5	Cal. Johnson, DET	84	1492	17.8	87	12												
Cameron, CLE	80	917	11.5	53	7	Gonzalez, ATL	83	859	10.3	25	8												
Punters						Punters																	
	No	Yds	LG	Avg			No	Yds	LG	Avg													
M. King, OAK	84	4107	66	48.9	A. Lee, SF	79	3804	62	48.2														
Fields, MIA	85	4150	74	48.8	Notman, CAR	70	3344	72	47.8														
Lechler, HOU	88	4189	65	47.6	S. Martin, DET	72	3399	72	47.2														
D. Colquitt, KC	87	4005	65	46.0	Morstead, NO	61	2859	61	46.9														
Koch, BAL	90	4138	69	46.0	Weatherford, NYG	91	4271	68	46.9														
McAfee, IND	76	3499	65	46.0	Bosher, ATL	68	3166	63	46.6														
Ry. Allen, NE	76	3491	65	45.9	Hekker, STL	78	3609	64	46.3														
Anger, JAX	95	4338	61	45.7	Zastudil, ARI	78	3566	60	45.7														
Quigley, NYJ	72	3278	67	45.5	Chr. Jones, DAL	77	3467	62	45.0														
Huber, CIN	66	2982	75	45.2	Donn. Jones, PHL	82	3681	70	44.9														
Punt Returns						Punt Returns																	
	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD		No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD												
Doss, BAL	23	359	15.6	82t	1	Sherels, MIN	22	335	15.2	86t	1												
Ant. Brown, PIT	32	409	12.8	67t	1	Dw. Harris, DAL	20	256	12.8	86t	1												
McCluster, KC	58	686	11.8	89t	2	Hyde, GB	24	296	12.3	93t	1												
Benjamin, CLE	22	257	11.7	79t	1	Ginn Jr., CAR	26	316	12.2	41	0												
Edelman, NE	35	374	10.7	43	0	G. Tate, SEA	51	585	11.5	71	0												
Br. Tate, CIN	36	336	9.3	43	0	L. James, SF	23	251	10.9	40	0												
K. Martin, HOU	39	345	8.8	87t	1	Page, TB	23	251	10.9	52	0												
Holliday, DEN	32	271	8.5	81t	1	T. Austin, STL	33	280	8.5	98t	1												
Thigpen, MIA	34	264	7.8	34	0	R. Randle, NYG	29	237	8.2	32	0												
McKelvin, BUF	32	180	5.6	21	0	Sproles, NO	29	194	6.7	28	0												
Kickoff Returns						Kickoff Returns																	
	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD		No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD												
Q. Demps, KC	33	992	30.1	95t	1	C. Patterson, MIN	43	1393	32.4	109t	2												
Jac. Jones, BAL	31	892	28.8	77t	1	Dw. Harris, DAL	28	857	30.6	90	0												
Holliday, DEN	28	775	27.7	105t	1	Hester, CHI	52	1442	27.7	80	0												
Todman, JAX	26	712	27.4	59	0	Page, TB	22	548	24.9	44	0												
K. Martin, HOU	36	947	26.3	50	0	Hyde, GB	22	531	24.1	70	0												
Br. Tate, CIN	35	914	26.1	71	0	Ginn Jr., CAR	25	595	23.8	38	0												
D. Reed, IND	24	590	24.6	39	0	J. Rodgers, ATL	25	575	23.0	34	0												
Cribbs, NYJ	20	490	24.5	42	0	Mi. Cox, NYG	20	436	21.8	56	0												
Ta. Jones, OAK	26	623	24.0	41	0	Arenas, ARI	23	493	21.4	46	0												
Thigpen, MIA	39	878	22.5	50	0	Paul, WAS	20	411	20.6	39	0												
Scoring Touchdowns						Scoring Touchdowns																	
	TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	Pts		TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	Pts												
J. Charles, KC	19	12	7	0	114	J. Graham, NO	16	0	16	0	96												
De. Thomas, DEN	14	0	14	0	84	M. Lynch, SEA	14	12	2	0	84												
Moreno, DEN	13	10	3	0	78	De. Bryant, DAL	13	0	13	0	78												
Ju. Thomas, DEN	12	0	12	0	72	Ve. Davis, SF	13	0	13	0	78												
Decker, DEN	11	0	11	0	66	B. Marshall, CHI	12	0	12	0	76												
A. Green, CIN	11	0	11	0	66	Forte, CHI	12	9	3	0	74												
Cotchery, PIT	10	0	10	0	60	Cal. Johnson, DET	12	0	12	0	72												
F. Jackson, BUF	10	9	1	0	60	Lacy, GB	11	11	0	0	66												
Chr. Johnson, TEN	10	6	4	0	60	L. McCoy, PHL	11	9	2	0	66												
M. Jones, CIN	10	0	10	0	60	A. Peterson, MIN	11	10	1	0	66												
Kicking						Kicking																	
	PAT	FG	LG	Pts			PAT	FG	LG	Pts													
Gostkowski, NE	44-44	38-41	54	158	Hauschka, SEA	44-44	33-35	53	143														
M. Prater, DEN	75-75	25-26	64	150	Crosby, GB	42-42	33-37	57	140														
Novak, SD	42-42	34-37	50	144	P. Dawson, SF	44-44	32-36	56	141														
J. Tucker, BAL	26-26	38-41	61	140	D. Bailey, DAL	47-47	28-30	53	131														
Vinatieri, IND	34-34	35-40	62	139	Feely, ARI	37-37	30-36	52	127														
D. Carpenter, BUF	32-32	33-36	55	131	Gould, CHI	45-46	26-29	58	123														
Suisham, PIT	39-39	30-32	48	129	Walsh, MIN	43-44	26-30	54	121														
Folk, NYJ	27-27	33-36	54	126	Gano, CAR	42-42	24-27	55	114														
Succop, KC	52-52	22-28	51	118	Henery, PHL	45-45	23-28	51	114														
Bironas, TEN	41-41	25-29	55	116	Zuerlein, STL	34-34	26-28	54	112														
AFC team statistics												NFC team statistics											
OFFENSE						OFFENSE																	
	Yards	Rush	Pass				Yards	Rush	Pass														
Denver	457.3	117.1	340.3	Philadelphia	417.3	160.4	256.9																
San Diego	393.3	122.8	270.5	Green Bay	400.3	133.5	266.8																
New England	384.5	129.1	255.4	New Orleans	399.4	92.1	307.4																
Cincinnati	368.4	109.7	258.7	Detroit	392.1	112.0	280.1																
Houston	347.3	108.9	238.3	Chicago	381.8	114.3	267.6																
Indianapolis	341.8	108.9	232.8	Washington	369.7	135.3	234.4																
Cleveland	338.9	86.4	252.5	Arizona	346.4	96.3	250.1																
Buffalo	338.1	144.2	193.9	Minnesota	344.3	130.1	214.2																
Pittsburgh	337.5	86.4	251.1	Atlanta	343.1	77.9	265.2																
Kansas City	337.3	128.5	208.8	Dallas	341.3	94.2	247.1																
Tennessee	336.9	118.4	218.5	Seattle	339.0	136.8	202.3																
Oakland	333.8	125.0	208.8	San Francisco	323.8	137.6	186.2																
N.Y. Jets	318.1	134.9	183.3	Carolina	316.8	126.6	190.2																
Miami	312.9	90.0	222.9	N.Y. Giants	307.5	83.3	224.3																
Baltimore	307.4	83.0	224.4	St. Louis	304.8	109.5	195.3																
Jacksonville	293.8	78.8	215.1	Tampa Bay	277.0	100.8	176.3																
DEFENSE						DEFENSE																	
	Yards	Rush	Pass				Yards	Rush	Pass														
Cincinnati	305.5	96.5	209.0	Seattle	273.6	101.6	172.0																
Houston	317.6	122.4	195.2	Carolina	301.3	86.9	214.3																
Cleveland	332.4	111.3	221.1	New Orleans	305.7	111.6	194.1																
Buffalo	333.4	128.9	204.4	San Francisco	316.9	95.9	221.0																
N.Y. Jets	334.9	88.3	246.7	Arizona	317.4	84.4	233.0																
Baltimore	335.5	105.4	230.1	N.Y. Giants	332.3	108.9	223.3																
Pittsburgh	337.2	115.6	221.6	St. Louis	345.0	102.9	242.1																
Tennessee	337.9	112.2	225.8	Detroit	346.6	99.8	246.9																
Denver	356.0	101.6	254.4	Tampa Bay	348.0	110.1	237.9																
Indianapolis	357.1	125.1	231.9	Washington	354.1	110.6	243.5																
Miami	359.4	124.9	234.5	Green Bay	372.3	125.0	247.3																
Oakland	363.7	107.9	255.8	Atlanta	379.4	135.8	243.6																
San Diego	366.5	107.8	258.7	Philadelphia	394.2	104.4	289.8																
Kansas City	367.8	120.2	247.6	Chicago	394.6	161.4	233.1																
New England	373.1	134.1	239.0	Minnesota	397.8	110.4	287.4																
Jacksonville	379.4	131.8	247.6	Dallas	415.3	128.5	286.4																

LOOKAHEAD

2014 shaping up to be memorable year

By NANCY ARMOUR

The Associated Press

Cold and snow for the Super Bowl, balmy temperatures and palm trees for the Winter Olympics. A college football champion that nobody can question and a golf major guaranteed to go two weeks. There's also the never-ending mess with Alex Rodriguez, and a World Cup that may — or may not — come off as planned.

The New Year hasn't even arrived yet, and 2014 is already shaping up to be one odd year.

While it's impossible to predict everything that will happen in the coming months, especially when it comes to sports — raise your hand if you saw that World Series title for the Boston Red Sox coming, or that swift kick to Alabama's hopes for a three-peat — one thing is for certain:

It's going to be a year like few others.

Super Bowl, Feb. 2: Yes, teams play in the cold and snow all the time during the regular season, and some of the NFL's most memorable games were played in wintry conditions. And, yes, there's a chance it could be in the 40s on game day. But the NFL is taking a big gamble by holding the Super Bowl, its marquee event, at an outdoor stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., in the dead of winter.

While some folks shelling out big bucks for Super Bowl tickets are fans of the two teams playing, most come for the experience — and that wasn't meant to include frostbite. There will be plenty of mumbling and grumbling if the Big Apple is hit by a blizzard or cold snap Feb. 2, to say nothing of the potential embarrassment of empty seats. Bad weather wouldn't be any picnic in the days before, either, wreaking havoc with the other events that make the Super Bowl the spectacle that it is and keeping fans hunkered down in their hotel rooms.

If they can get to their hotel rooms, that is.

Winter Olympics, Feb. 7-23: Weather has been a concern since the Winter Games were awarded to Sochi, a resort city on the Black Sea where the average high in February is nearly 50 degrees and rain is far more likely than snow. The temperatures should be lower in the mountains, where the outdoor events will be held, and organizers have guaranteed snow, even if it's the stuff they've been squirreling away since last year, when un-Winter Olympic-like weather forced the cancellation of some test events.

Warm temperatures and slushy snow might wind up being the least of the worries for Russian president Vladimir Putin and Sochi organizers, however. Russia's new anti-gay laws have sparked outrage



OLYMPICTORCH2014.COM/AP

Olympic torch bearer Nina Panteleyeva runs with the Kremlin citadel in the background during the Olympic torch relay in Syzran, 556 miles southeast of Moscow, Russia, last Tuesday. The 40,389-mile Sochi torch relay, which started on Oct. 7, is the longest in Olympic history. The torch has traveled to the North Pole on a Russian nuclear-powered icebreaker and has even been flown into space.

from the rest of the world, as has Putin's human-rights record. The International Olympic Committee has reminded athletes that protests or political gestures violate the Olympic charter, and Sochi organizers have said they will set up special "protest

zones." But the criticism isn't likely to quiet once the games begin, not when the whole world is watching.

Alex Rodriguez: A decision on whether the New York Yankees' third baseman will play this season is expected in January.

Rodriguez was banned for 211 games last August for violating baseball's drug agreement and labor contract, but he played out the season while the union appealed. The Yankees have made it clear they've had it with Rodriguez, which would make spring training all kinds of awesome if he reports in February.

Oh, A-Rod is also suing Major League Baseball and Commissioner Bud Selig. Not that that's awkward or anything.

Boston Marathon, April 21: The field for this year's race will be 36,000 strong, the second-largest in history, as runners honor not only the victims of last year's bombings but the city's resilience.

World Cup, June 12-July 13: Six of the 12 stadiums won't be ready until January or February, though organizers insist that's still more than enough time to hold test events. But despite spending billions to prepare for the World Cup (and the 2016 Olympics), questions remain about Brazil's infrastructure, with many fearing the airports, roads and local transportation systems won't be able to handle the crush of tourists. All that spending also has created resentment among Brazilian citizens, who disrupted last summer's Confederations Cup with violent protests.

On the field, however, this could be one of the most entertaining tournaments yet. Led by budding star Neymar, host Brazil has its most intriguing team since its last title run in 2002. Lionel Messi is finally showing the sublime form for Argentina that's become his trademark with FC Barcelona. The Europeans are, simply, stacked, with reigning champion Spain, Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium all legitimate front-runners. And parity has made for some very competitive — some would say cruel — group-stage matchups.

US Open, June 12-15 and 19-22: For the first time, the men's and women's U.S. Opens will be played on the same course, Pinehurst No. 2, in the same year. A week apart, no less.

While it's a terrific showcase for the women — odds are the upcoming women's Open will be mentioned a time or 12,000 during the men's broadcast — there are concerns, as well. Like the state of the domed greens after a week of being trampled on by Tiger, Rory and the rest of the guys. If there are weather delays or a playoff, the women won't get on the course until Tuesday, giving them just two days to prepare for their biggest major.

College Football, August-January: No matter what else happens, there will be peace in the land come the end of the year in the form of the first college football playoff.

Unless, of course, five or six teams finish the year unbeaten.

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NHL

Ducks stay hot, rout rival Sharks

Anaheim doubles up San Jose for its 11th victory in 12 games

By GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Ryan Getzlaf and Jonas Hiller propelled the Anaheim Ducks into the second half of their season with the NHL's best record and ample reason to think they could get even better in the new year.

Getzlaf scored his 20th goal and added two assists, Francois Beauchemin got his first goal of the season, and the Ducks beat the San Jose Sharks 6-3 Tuesday night, closing the best December in club history with their 11th victory in 12 games.

Nick Bonino and Matt Beleskey each had a goal and an assist, and Hiller made 33 saves in his ninth consecutive win as Anaheim improved to 15-0-2 at Honda Center, remaining the only NHL team without a regulation loss at home.

With another overpowering offensive performance despite a slow start, the Ducks also avenged San Jose's 3-1 victory at the Shark Tank on Sunday that snapped Anaheim's franchise-record winning streak.

"We're a good hockey club, and we know it," said Getzlaf, the NHL's third-leading scorer with 47 points. "But we also know

we've got to get better. Games like this, when you come out flat, teams will bury you."

Andrew Coglian scored a short-handed goal while playing in his 500th consecutive game for Anaheim, which kicked off the second half of its schedule and headed into the new year at a franchise-record 29-8-5.

The Ducks lead San Jose by seven points in the Pacific and sit even with Chicago atop the overall NHL standings with 63 points. Anaheim coach Bruce Boudreau has built one of the best teams in hockey, but the Ducks' dissatisfaction with their start against San Jose indicated a hunger to get better.

"It's been a lot of fun, and I hope we can keep this going," said Hiller, whose winning streak is the longest in club history. "It's nice to be up there in the standings and to be able to achieve something like we have this year, but I don't think anybody is satisfied yet."

Kyle Palmieri also scored for the Ducks, who shredded their Pacific Division rivals and chased Antti Niemi with five goals in an 11½-minute span of the final two periods.

Dan Boyle and Bracken Kearns scored power-play goals as



JAE C. HONG/AP

The San Jose Sharks' Matt Nieto, left, tries to score on Anaheim Ducks goalie Jonas Hiller during the first period of Tuesday's game in Anaheim, Calif. The Ducks won the battle of Pacific Division foes 6-3.

the Sharks' four-game winning streak ended with a dismaying defensive effort in front of Niemi, who stopped 29 shots.

Logan Couture also scored for San Jose, which dominated the first period before falling apart in the second. Alex Stalock replaced Niemi after Getzlaf blasted a wrist shot past the Finnish goalie for Anaheim's fifth goal early in the third period.

"You want to keep the momentum going, but the second period we were just caught staring, and it definitely cost us," Sharks captain Joe Thornton said.

Two nights after the Sharks held Anaheim to one goal for

the first time in 17 games since Nov. 22, the Ducks showed they haven't lost their teamwork and offensive power by putting up a franchise-record 25 shots in the second period.

"We were on our toes, winning the races," San Jose coach Todd McLellan said. "Where did it go in the second? I guess that's the big question we have to ask our group. What do you do? What do you bring to the team? Are you an energy guy? Do you hit, block shots, or just take up space?"

"We have got some guys ... that need to perform a little bit better."

Beauchemin got a rebound

goal after a lengthy cycle in the second. Couture tied it with his 12th goal before Bonino dived headfirst onto the ice to slap home Getzlaf's rebound, ending Anaheim's eight-game drought on power plays. Bonino then stole a pass behind San Jose's net and got it in front to Beleskey for the grinding forward's second goal of the season.

After Getzlaf chased Niemi, Coglian put home Saku Koivu's rebound when the Sharks gave up a 3-on-0 short-handed rush moments later. Coglian became the fifth NHL player to play in 500 consecutive games from the start of his career.

Roundup

Brodeur shuts down Pens again in Devils' win

The Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — Martin Brodeur beat the Pittsburgh Penguins yet again and even got an assist, too, as the New Jersey Devils beat Pittsburgh 2-1 on Tuesday.

"I think that's been the case for a number of years, even before I played for Pittsburgh," Penguins center Sidney Crosby said. "They play a good team defense and with Marty Brodeur and (Cory) Schneider there, they have two pretty good goalies. You have to make sure you put your chances away."

Brodeur came up big early and then held on to improve his record to 48-28-5 against Pittsburgh in his career. The Devils stand 13-3 vs. the Penguins at the Prudential Center since it opened in 2008.

Adam Henrique scored 1:38 into the game and Michael Ryder connected 2:45 into the second, sparking the Devils to the win. Brodeur was credited with his 44th career assist on Ryder's goal.

Brodeur made 19 saves for the Devils (17-16-1) in earning his second win over Pittsburgh this



JULIO CORTES/AP

New Jersey Devils goalie Martin Brodeur blocks a shot in the third period of the Devils' 2-1 win over Pittsburgh on Tuesday in Newark, N.J.

season. Marc-Andre Fleury had 28 saves for the Metropolitan Division-leading Penguins (29-12-1).

"Especially in this building, we've been playing them well,"

said Brodeur, who improved to 12-8-3 this season. "We're trying to play well against good teams. We want to play well against everybody, but we have that little

fear of the Penguins because we know how damaging they can be. So it brings out the best in us."

Henrique scored his ninth goal with a nifty finish of a pass from Ryan Clowe. Henrique made a quick move into the clear in front of the net and then lifted a shot over the left shoulder of Penguins goalie Fleury. Ryder was credited with an assist on the goal.

Ryder scored the game-winner in the second period after Henrique gained possession of the puck over the blue line and sent it back to Ryder, who beat Fleury.

Pittsburgh's Matt Niskanen cut it to 2-1 in the second from the right circle off a Crosby feed that beat Brodeur to his glove side.

Rangers 2, Panthers 1 (SO): Brad Richards scored the lone goal in the shootout as visiting New York rallied to top Florida.

Blues 2, Wild 1: Jaden Schwartz scored for the sixth straight game and visiting St. Louis hung on to beat Minnesota.

Islanders 5, Bruins 3: John Tavares scored 32 seconds into the third period and had a power-

play goal with 6:43 left as New York rallied to beat host Boston.

Flyers 4, Flames 1: Brayden Schenn had a goal and two assists to lead visiting Philadelphia over Calgary.

Jets 3, Sabres 0: Al Montoya made 27 saves and led host Winnipeg over Buffalo.

Hurricanes 5, Canadiens 4 (OT): Alexander Semin scored 3:27 into overtime as host Carolina snapped a five-game losing streak to beat Montreal.

Stars 3, Kings 2: Erik Cole scored twice and Tyler Seguin netted his 20th goal of the season as host Dallas edged struggling Los Angeles.

Avalanche 5, Blue Jackets 3: Ryan O'Reilly and Gabriel Landeskog scored power-play goals, helping host Colorado beat Columbus.

Coyotes 4, Oilers 3 (OT): Keith Yandle scored in overtime and set up Mikkel Boedker's tying goal late in regulation as host Phoenix beat Edmonton.

NHL SCOREBOARD

Eastern Conference									
Atlantic Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Boston	40	26	12	2	54	117	86		
Tampa Bay	39	23	12	4	50	110	93		
Montreal	41	23	14	4	50	103	94		
Detroit	41	18	14	9	45	107	117		
Toronto	41	20	16	5	45	115	118		
Ottawa	42	17	18	7	41	118	135		
Florida	41	15	20	6	36	96	130		
Buffalo	40	11	25	4	26	71	113		
Metropolitan Division									
Pittsburgh	42	29	12	1	59	131	96		
Washington	40	20	15	5	45	122	119		
Philadelphia	40	20	16	4	44	105	111		
New Jersey	41	17	16	8	42	97	103		
N.Y. Rangers	41	20	19	2	42	96	109		
Carolina	40	15	16	9	39	96	118		
Columbus	40	17	19	4	38	109	117		
N.Y. Islanders	41	13	21	7	33	107	138		

Western Conference									
Central Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Chicago	42	28	7	7	63	158	115		
St. Louis	39	27	7	5	59	139	93		
Colorado	39	24	11	4	52	114	100		
Dallas	39	20	12	7	47	115	113		
Minnesota	42	20	17	5	45	97	109		
Winnipeg	42	19	18	5	43	114	121		
Nashville	40	18	18	4	40	95	119		
Pacific Division									
Anaheim	42	29	8	5	63	137	106		
San Jose	40	25	9	6	56	131	104		
Los Angeles	41	25	12	4	54	110	83		
Vancouver	41	23	11	7	53	111	97		
Phoenix	39	20	10	9	49	120	120		
Calgary	40	14	20	6	34	96	126		
Edmonton	42	13	24	5	31	109	143		

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Monday's games
Philadelphia 4, Vancouver 3, SO
Ottawa 3, Washington 1
Chicago 1, Los Angeles 0
Nashville 6, Detroit 4
Tuesday's games
N.Y. Rangers 2, Florida 1, SO
New Jersey 2, Pittsburgh 1
St. Louis 2, Minnesota 1
N.Y. Islanders 5, Boston 3
Carolina 5, Montreal 4, OT
Winnipeg 3, Buffalo 0
Anaheim 6, San Jose 3
Dallas 3, Los Angeles 2
Colorado 5, Columbus 3
Philadelphia 4, Calgary 1
Phoenix 4, Edmonton 3, OT
Wednesday's games
Toronto vs. Detroit at Ann Arbor, MI
Tampa Bay at Vancouver
Thursday's games
Nashville at Boston
Chicago at N.Y. Islanders
Carolina at Washington
Winnipeg at Ottawa
Los Angeles at St. Louis
Buffalo at Minnesota
Montreal at Dallas
Philadelphia at Colorado
Columbus at Phoenix
Edmonton at San Jose
Friday's games
Chicago at New Jersey
N.Y. Rangers at Pittsburgh
Tampa Bay at Calgary
Edmonton at Anaheim

Tuesday
Flyers 4, Canucks 3 (SO)
Philadelphia 1 1 1 0-4
Vancouver 0 2 1 0-3
Philadelphia won shootout 1-0
First Period—1, Philadelphia, Streit 4 (Raffl, Giroux), 15:24.
Second Period—2, Vancouver, Sestito 3 (Hamhuis, Dalpe), 4:24. 3, Vancouver, Hansen 8 (D.Sedin, H.Sedin), 16:51. 4, Philadelphia, Giroux 11 (Raffl), 18:52.
Third Period—5, Vancouver, D.Sedin 13 (Hamhuis), 17:12. 6, Philadelphia, B.Schenn 8 (Hartnell, Read), 19:13.
Shootout—Philadelphia 1 (Lecavalier G, Giroux NG), Vancouver 0 (Santorelli NG, Kesler NG, D.Sedin NG).
Shots on Goal—Philadelphia 8-8-10-1-27. Vancouver 13-15-14-2-44.
Power-play opportunities—Philadelphia 0 of 2; Vancouver 0 of 4.
Goalies—Philadelphia, Mason 16-9-4 (44 shots-41 saves). Vancouver, Lack 7-2-1 (27-24).
A—18,910 (18,910). **T**—2:50.
Goalies—Pittsburgh, Fleury 22-10-1 (30 shots-28 saves). New Jersey, Brodeur 12-8-3 (20-19).
A—16,592 (17,625). **T**—2:22.



ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

Bruins defenseman Zdeno Chara falls to the ice as he is prevented from getting to the puck in a 5-3 loss to the Islanders on Tuesday. The Bruins remained in first place in the Atlantic Division with 54 points.

Hurricanes 5, Canadiens 4 (OT)
Montreal 2 1 1 0-4
Carolina 0 0 4 1-5
First Period—1, Montreal, Eller 9 (Galchenyuk), 1:20. 2, Montreal, Pacioretty 16 (Desharnais, Markov), 7:46 (pp).
Second Period—3, Montreal, Pacioretty 17 (Subban, Desharnais), 14:24.
Third Period—4, Carolina, Skinner 15 (Jo.Staal, Sekera), 1:38 (pp). 5, Carolina, Skinner 16 (Sekera, E.Staal), 2:15 (pp). 6, Carolina, E.Staal 10 (Skinner, Bellemore), 4:07. 7, Carolina, Malhotra 2 (Boychuk, Ruutu), 8:16. 8, Montreal, Subban 6 (Markov, Desharnais), 10:16 (pp).
Overtime—9, Carolina, Semin 5 (Hainsey, E.Staal), 3:27.
Shots on Goal—Montreal 11-5-7-2-25. Carolina 10-15-15-2-42.
Power-play opportunities—Montreal 2 of 6; Carolina 2 of 10.
Goalies—Montreal, Price 18-11-3 (42 shots-37 saves). Carolina, Ward 6-7-5 (25-21).
A—16,807 (18,680). **T**—2:46.

Avalanche 5, Blue Jackets 3
Columbus 1 1 1 1-3
Colorado 1 2 2-5
First Period—1, Columbus, Johansen 16 (Foligno, Umberger), 4:13. 2, Colorado, Hejda 4, 6:33.
Second Period—3, Columbus, Jenner 5 (Comeau, J.Johnson), 8:34. 4, Colorado, McGinn 7 (Duchene, O'Reilly), 12:04. 5, Colorado, O'Reilly 13 (Duchene, E.Johnson), 14:42 (pp).
Third Period—6, Colorado, Landeskog 12 (Stastny, MacKinnon), 8:10 (pp). 7, Columbus, Foligno 11 (Umberger, Johansen), 8:47. 8, Colorado, MacKinnon 10 (Benoit, Barrie), 18:57 (pp).
Shots on Goal—Columbus 12-14-12-38. Colorado 8-5-10-23.
Power-play opportunities—Columbus 0 of 3; Colorado 3 of 3.
Goalies—Columbus, McElhinney 6-7-1 (23 shots-18 saves). Colorado, Varlamov 17-8-4 (38-35).
A—16,177 (18,007). **T**—2:22.

Rangers 2, Panthers 1 (SO)
N.Y. Rangers 0 0 1 0-2
Florida 0 1 0 0-1
N.Y. Rangers won shootout 1-0
Second Period—1, Florida, Boyes 10 (Barkov), 9:18.
Third Period—2, N.Y. Rangers, Girardi 3 (Stepan, Nash), 17:50.
Shootout—N.Y. Rangers 1 (Zuccarello NG, Stepan NG, Richards G), Florida 0 (Barkov NG, Huberdeau NG, Boyes NG).
Shots on Goal—N.Y. Rangers 5-13-9-4-31. Florida 6-9-7-0-22.
Power-play opportunities—N.Y. Rangers 0 of 3; Florida 0 of 4.
Goalies—N.Y. Rangers, Lundqvist 12-15-2 (22 shots-21 saves). Florida, Thomas 9-10-2 (31-30).
A—16,083 (17,040). **T**—2:34.

Stars 3, Kings 2
Los Angeles 1 0 1-2
Dallas 1 2 0-3
First Period—1, Los Angeles, Carter 13 (Richards, Doughty), 12:23 (pp). 2, Dallas, Cole 9 (Chiasson, Seguin), 15:58 (pp).
Second Period—3, Dallas, Seguin 20 (Chiasson, Ja.Benn), 12:13 (pp). 4, Dallas, Cole 10 (Peverley, Nichushkin), 15:16.
Third Period—5, Los Angeles, Kopitar 13 (Carter, King), 1:05.
Shots on Goal—Los Angeles 14-6-5-25. Dallas 13-11-8-32.
Power-play opportunities—Los Angeles 1 of 3; Dallas 2 of 5.
Goalies—Los Angeles, Scrivens 7-5-4 (32 shots-29 saves). Dallas, Lehtonen 16-8-7 (25-23).
A—15,610 (18,532). **T**—2:28.

Blues 2, Wild 1
St. Louis 0 2 0-2
Minnesota 0 0 1-1
Second Period—1, St. Louis, Oshie 6 (Schwartz), 6:49. 2, St. Louis, Schwartz 14 (Tarasenko, Elliott), 15:59.
Third Period—3, Minnesota, Suter 2 (Coyle, Koivu), 19:51.
Shots on Goal—St. Louis 7-9-7-23. Minnesota 9-5-11-25.
Power-play opportunities—St. Louis 0 of 1; Minnesota 0 of 3.
Goalies—St. Louis, Elliott 10-1-2 (25 shots-24 saves). Minnesota, Harding 18-7-3 (23-21).
A—18,919 (17,954). **T**—2:17.

Coyotes 4, Oilers 3 (OT)
Edmonton 1 2 0 0-3
Phoenix 1 1 1 1-4
First Period—1, Phoenix, Yandle 5 (Morris, Korpikoski), 10:59. 2, Edmonton, Nugent-Hopkins 11 (Hall, Perron), 18:50.
Second Period—3, Edmonton, Perron 17 (Hall), :25. 4, Edmonton, J.Schultz 4 (Hall), 6:44. 5, Phoenix, Kennedy 2 (Hanzal, Stone), 12:05.
Third Period—6, Phoenix, Boedker 11 (Yandle, Vrbata), 18:50.
Overtime—7, Phoenix, Yandle 6, 4:53.
Shots on Goal—Edmonton 6-9-6-4-25. Phoenix 21-12-9-2-44.
Power-play opportunities—Edmonton 0 of 1; Phoenix 0 of 2.
Goalies—Edmonton, Bryzgalov 2-4-2 (44 shots-40 saves). Phoenix, Smith (10-7), Greiss 5-2-1 (6:44 second, 15-15).
A—17,416 (17,125). **T**—2:33.

Devils 2, Penguins 1
Pittsburgh 0 1 0-1
New Jersey 1 1 0-2
First Period—1, New Jersey, Henrique 9 (Clowe, Ryder), 1:38.
Second Period—2, New Jersey, Ryder 12 (Henrique, Brodeur), 2:45. 3, Pittsburgh, Niskanen 4 (Crosby, Kunitz), 6:58.
Shots on Goal—Pittsburgh 8-5-7-20. New Jersey 13-11-6-30.
Power-play opportunities—Pittsburgh 0 of 1; New Jersey 0 of 4.
Goalies—Pittsburgh, Fleury 22-10-1 (30 shots-28 saves). New Jersey, Brodeur 12-8-3 (20-19).
A—17,625. **T**—2:22.

Jets 3, Sabres 0
Buffalo 0 0 0 0-0
Winnipeg 1 1 1-3
First Period—1, Winnipeg, Ellerby 2 (Ladd), 10:42.
Second Period—2, Winnipeg, Trouba 3 (Thorburn, Setoguchi), 13:06.
Third Period—3, Winnipeg, Peluso 2 (Kane, Scheifele), 18:32 (en).
Shots on Goal—Buffalo 10-12-5-27. Winnipeg 8-10-8-26.
Power-play opportunities—Buffalo 0 of 4; Winnipeg 0 of 3.
Goalies—Buffalo, Enroth 1-8-3 (25 shots-23 saves). Winnipeg, Montoya 8-2-1 (27-27).
A—15,004 (15,004). **T**—2:24.

Islanders 5, Bruins 3
N.Y. Islanders 0 3 2-5
Boston 1 2 0-3
First Period—1, Boston, Krejci 9 (Igini-la, Lucic), 4:25.
Second Period—2, N.Y. Islanders, Nielsen 14 (Tavares, Okposo), 5:56 (pp). 3, Boston, Bergeron 10 (Spooner, Smith), 12:33 (pp). 4, Boston, Paille 5 (Chara), 12:58. 5, N.Y. Islanders, Nielsen 15 (Vanek, Tavares), 16:30 (pp). 6, N.Y. Islanders, Okposo 15 (MacDonald), 19:57 (pp).
Third Period—7, N.Y. Islanders, Tavares 15 (Vanek, Hickey), :32. 8, N.Y. Islanders, Tavares 16 (MacDonald, Okposo), 13:17 (pp).
Shots on Goal—N.Y. Islanders 8-12-11-31. Boston 13-11-14-38.
Power-play opportunities—N.Y. Islanders 4 of 8; Boston 1 of 3.
Goalies—N.Y. Islanders, Nabokov 8-7-5 (38 shots-35 saves). Boston, Rask 20-9-2 (31-26).
A—17,565 (17,565). **T**—2:36.

Ducks 6, Sharks 3
San Jose 0 2 1-3
Anaheim 1 3 2-6
First Period—1, Anaheim, Palmieri 7 (Beleskey, Fowler), 16:24.
Second Period—2, San Jose, Boyle 7 (Pavelski, Thornton), :35 (pp). 3, Anaheim, Beauchemin 1 (Getzlaf, Silfverberg), 11:00. 4, San Jose, Couture 12 (Marleau, Vlasic), 12:35. 5, Anaheim, Bonino 11 (Getzlaf, Fowler), 14:59 (pp). 6, Anaheim, Beleskey 2 (Bonino), 18:30.
Third Period—7, Anaheim, Getzlaf 20 (Perry), 1:14. 8, Anaheim, Cogliano 12 (Koivu), 2:25 (sh). 9, San Jose, Kearns 2 (Irwin, Nieto), 3:16 (pp).
Shots on Goal—San Jose 17-8-11-36. Anaheim 8-25-5-38.
Power-play opportunities—San Jose 2 of 5; Anaheim 1 of 3.
Goalies—San Jose, Niemi 21-8-6 (34 shots-29 saves). Stalock (1:14 third, 4-3). Anaheim, Hiller 18-4-4 (36-33).
A—17,424 (17,174). **T**—2:30.

Leaders				
Scoring Through Dec. 31				
	GP	G	A	PTS
Sidney Crosby, Pit	42	22	37	59
Patrick Kane, Chi	42	23	30	53
Ryan Getzlaf, Anh	39	20	27	47
John Tavares, NYI	40	16	28	44
Nicklas Backstrom, Was	40	10	34	44
Joe Thornton, SJ	40	5	39	44
Corey Perry, Anh	42	22	21	43
Chris Kunitz, Pit	42	21	22	43
Alex Ovechkin, Was	38	30	11	41
Patrick Sharp, Chi	42	22	19	41
Evgeni Malkin, Pit	32	9	32	41
Kyle Okposo, NYI	41	15	25	40
Jonathan Toews, Chi	42	15	25	40
Tyler Seguin, Dal	37	20	19	39
Duncan Keith, Chi	42	3	36	39
Alexander Steen, Stl	35	24	14	38
Martin St. Louis, TB	39	17	21	38
Taylor Hall, Edm	35	15	23	38
Erik Karlsson, Ott	42	10	28	38
Phil Kessel, Tor	41	20	17	37
Patrick Marleau, SJ	40	17	20	37
Joe Pavelski, SJ	40	16	21	37
Claude Giroux, Phi	40	11	26	37
Bobby Ryan, Ott	42	18	18	36
Matt Duchene, Col	36	16	20	36
Daniel Sedin, Van	41	13	22	35
Jamie Benn, Dal	39	13	22	35
Henrik Sedin, Van	41	9	26	35
David Krejci, Bos	40	9	26	35
Marian Hossa, Chi	37	14	20	34
Goaltending				
	GP	SV	GA	GAA
Josh Harding, Min	29	690	46	1.65
Cam Talbot, NYR	13	326	21	1.72
Ben Scrivens, LA	18	452	29	1.84
Eddie Lack, Van	13	294	21	1.84
Al Montoya, Wpg	13	335	22	1.85
Ben Bishop, TB	29	832	54	1.89
Brian Elliott, Stl	16	360	28	1.96
Tuukka Rask, Bos	32	917	62	1.99
Cory Schneider, NJ	18	454	39	2.13
Marc-Andre Fleury, Pit	34	902	72	2.15
Carey Price, Mtl	32	972	68	2.15
Antti Raanta, Chi	15	368	32	2.21
Roberto Luongo, Van	32	846	68	2.24
Martin Brodeur, NJ	23	562	52	2.25
Jonathan Quick, LA	16	388	37	2.35
Semyon Varlamov, Col	30	936	69	2.38
Steve Mason, Phi	30	883	69	2.38
Justin Peters, Car	20	619	48	2.38
Jonas Gustavsson, Det	17	455	39	2.39
Jaroslav Halak, Stl	28	653	61	2.40

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Check this space every Thursday during the entire NFL season for the weeks Top Scores and Best Overall Scores during the NFL Challenge.

Top Scores for Week 17			Top 10 Overall Scores		
270	Turd Ferguson	Tampa Bay	3082	Das Meisterburger!	Ansbach
270	Airlifter	Kadena	3046	sonofjmak	Kadena
270	North Country Big Blue	Pentagon	3038	Redzone	Davis-Mothan AFB
268	sgtpaul5	Patch Barracks	3028	special k	Osan
268	Bolt Blitzkreig	Atsugi	3026	yak	Kadena
266	Woodeye	NAF Atsugi	3024	Vegasline	Kadena
266	Burney PANTHERS Baby	Grafenwohr	3022	horse#1	Schweinfurt
266	motoxguy7	Guantanamo Naval Station	3014	Hoty	Foster
266	SD Charger Girl	Camp Humphreys	3014	coach_mc_2000	Kadena Air Base
266	davez	FT BLISS	3012	runsinn	Sembach

SPORTS BRIEFS/COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Briefly

O'Brien heading to Texans

The Associated Press

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Bill O'Brien is leaving Penn State less than two years after replacing Joe Paterno and returning to the NFL with the Houston Texans to coach the worst team in the league.

Two people familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press that O'Brien reached an agreement with the Texans on Tuesday night. They spoke on condition of anonymity because an official announcement hasn't been made.

O'Brien bolted Penn State and a slew of players who pledged commitment to a team in its darkest hour for an NFL team that ended the season on a 14-game skid and 2-14 record.

O'Brien, a former offensive coordinator for the New England Patriots, took on perhaps college football's toughest job in January 2012, joining a school rattled by the Jerry Sandusky child sex abuse scandal.

Despite a lack of scholarships, a bowl ban, an overall sense of doom and player defections from the late Paterno's roster, O'Brien led the Nittany Lions to two winning seasons (8-4, 7-5) while restoring some tempered enthusiasm in Happy Valley.

But the Nittany Lions are back to the drawing board this week after losing O'Brien in circumstances similar to those of last year. After his debut season, O'Brien interviewed with the Jacksonville Jaguars and Cleveland Browns, among others, only to stay in State College.

Schumacher stable but critical

GRENOBLE, France — Formula One great Michael Schumacher's condition was stable but still critical overnight as he remained unconscious following a brain injury suffered in a skiing accident, his manager said Wednesday.

Sabine Kehm told reporters that his condition has not changed since doctors said he showed small signs of improvement on Tuesday, following his second operation.

Schumacher, who turns 45 on Friday, suffered critical head injuries when he fell and struck a rock while skiing Sunday morning during a family vacation at Meribel in the French Alps. His 14-year-old son, Mick, was with him in a group of friends when the accident happened in a small, rock-strewn area of open ground between two groomed pistes.

The seven-time F1 champion has since undergone two brain operations and remains in a medically induced coma.

Buckeyes' Spence suspended

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Ohio State defensive end Noah Spence has been suspended for three games for violating an undisclosed Big Ten rule, meaning he will not play in the Orange Bowl on Friday night.

Spence did not accompany the seventh-ranked Buckeyes to South Florida because of what the team called "a personal issue." He also will sit out the first two games of next season.

Spence was an All-Big Ten player this season, leading the team with eight sacks and ranking sixth in the conference with 13½ tackles for loss.



KEVIN RIVOLI/AP

Eastern Michigan's Olalekan Ajayi, center, is trapped by Syracuse's Jerami Grant, left, Baye Moussa Keita and C. J. Fair, right, during the first half of Tuesday's game in Syracuse, N.Y. No. 2 Syracuse won 70-48 to improve to 13-0 for the season.

AP Top 25 roundup

No. 2 Orange stay perfect

The Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Jerami Grant scored 15 points in his first start of the season, Ra'keem Christmas matched his career high with 15 points, and No. 2 Syracuse beat Eastern Michigan 70-48 on Tuesday in the final nonconference game for both teams.

Syracuse (13-0) raced to a 20-point lead in the first half, allowed the Eagles to slice it in half before the break, then regained control early in the second and won its 51st straight nonconference game in the Carrier Dome. The Orange are one of seven unbeaten teams in Division I and begin play in the Atlantic Coast Conference against Miami on Saturday.

C.J. Fair finished with 13 points and eight rebounds, and Trevor Cooney had 10 points for the Orange. Freshman point guard Tyler Ennis, second nationally in assist to turnover ratio (4.69), matched his season high with nine assists to go with two turnovers and pulled down five rebounds but did not score.

Glenn Bryant led Eastern Michigan (7-5) with 19 points.

No. 3 Ohio St. 78, Purdue 69: LaQuinton Ross had career-bests with 25 points and 12 rebounds and Shannon Scott added a career-high 18 points to lead the visiting Buckeyes past the Boilermakers in the Big Ten opener for both teams.

The Buckeyes (14-0) matched the fourth-best start in school history.

No. 5 Michigan St. 79, Penn St. 63: Brandon Dawson scored 20 points and Keith Appling had 14 for the visiting Spartans in the Big Ten opener for both teams.

Gary Harris added 13 points and Travis Tice had 12 for Michigan State (12-1, 1-0). Dawson led a second-half charge to help the Spartans rally from a halftime deficit and win their fifth straight game.

No. 7 Duke 86, Elon 48: At Greensboro, N.C. Andre Dawkins scored 15 points to help the Blue Devils rout the Phoenix.

Rodney Hood had 13 points and freshman Jabari Parker had 12 points and a season-high-tying 10 rebounds for the Blue Devils (11-2).

No. 11 Villanova 76, Butler 73 (OT): JayVaughn Pinkston had 22 points and the visiting Wildcats rebounded from their first loss of the season in the Big East opener for both teams.

Darrun Hilliard scored 15 points and Josh Hart added 10 for Villanova (12-1, 1-0), which lost at No. 2 Syracuse on Saturday.

No. 13 Iowa St. 99, N. Illinois 63: DeAndre Kane had 16 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists in the host Cyclones' 12th straight win.

Melvin Ejim and Naz Long had 17 points each for Iowa State (12-0), which rolled past the Huskies just hours after learning of the death of longtime former coach Johnny Orr.

No. 14 Louisville 90, Central Florida 65: Russ Smith hit six three-pointers and finished with 24 points and nine assists for the visiting Cardinals in the American Athletic Conference opener for both teams.

Luke Hancock had 16 points for Louisville (12-2, 1-0) and Montrezl Harrell added 15 points and eight rebounds.

Houston 75, No. 17 Connecticut 71:

TaShawn Thomas scored 23 points, including two free throws with 9 seconds left, and blocked a late layup by Shabazz Napier as the host Cougars rallied for the win in the American Athletic Conference opener for both teams.

Thomas was 8-for-15 from the field and 7-for-8 from the free-throw line and grabbed eight rebounds for Houston (9-5, 1-0), which defeated a ranked team for the first time since beating Central Florida on Jan. 8, 2011.

No. 18 Memphis 88, South Florida 73: Geron Johnson scored 19 points for the visiting Tigers in the American Athletic Conference season opener for both teams.

Joe Jackson and Michael Dixon Jr. added 18 points apiece for Memphis (10-2, 1-0), which had eight three-pointers. The Tigers entered averaging 4.6 threes per game.

No. 19 North Carolina 84, UNC Wilmington 51: James Michael McAdoo had 23 points and 10 rebounds and the host Tar Heels became the third program to reach 2,100 victories.

Marcus Paige scored 12 of his 15 points in the second half to help North Carolina (10-3) shake free from a slow start. The Tar Heels shot 63 percent in the second half to turn their final nonconference game into a rout.

No. 22 Iowa 67, Nebraska 57: Devyn Marble had 15 points and eight rebounds for the host Hawkeyes in their Big Ten opener.

Aaron White scored 11 of his 13 points in the first half for Iowa (12-2, 1-0), which led by as many as 20 points in the second half.

NBA

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	14	15	.483	—
Boston	13	18	.419	2
Brooklyn	10	21	.323	5
Philadelphia	9	21	.300	5½
New York	9	21	.300	5½
Southeast Division				
Miami	24	7	.774	—
Atlanta	18	14	.563	6½
Washington	14	14	.500	8½
Charlotte	14	18	.438	10½
Orlando	10	21	.323	14
Central Division				
Indiana	25	5	.833	—
Detroit	14	19	.424	12½
Chicago	12	18	.400	13
Cleveland	10	21	.323	15½
Milwaukee	7	24	.226	18½
Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	25	7	.781	—
Houston	21	13	.618	5
Dallas	18	13	.581	6½
New Orleans	14	15	.483	9½
Memphis	13	17	.433	11
Northwest Division				
Oklahoma City	25	6	.806	—
Portland	25	7	.781	½
Minnesota	15	16	.484	10
Denver	14	16	.467	10½
Utah	10	24	.294	16½
Pacific Division				
L.A. Clippers	21	12	.636	—
Phoenix	19	11	.633	½
Golden State	20	13	.606	1
L.A. Lakers	13	19	.406	7½
Sacramento	10	20	.333	9½
Monday's games				
Washington 106, Detroit 99				
Dallas 100, Minnesota 98				
Chicago 95, Memphis 91				
New Orleans 110, Portland 108				
Miami 97, Denver 94				
Utah 83, Charlotte 80				
Phoenix 107, L.A. Clippers 88				
Tuesday's games				
Atlanta 92, Boston 91				
Indiana 91, Cleveland 76				
Golden State 94, Orlando 81				
Sacramento 110, Houston 106				
San Antonio 113, Brooklyn 92				
Toronto 85, Chicago 79				
Portland 98, Oklahoma City 94				
Milwaukee 94, L.A. Lakers 79				
Wednesday's games				
Dallas at Washington				
Indiana at Toronto				
New Orleans at Minnesota				
Philadelphia at Denver				
Charlotte at L.A. Clippers				
Thursday's games				
Orlando at Cleveland				
Golden State at Miami				
Boston at Chicago				
Brooklyn at Oklahoma City				
New York at San Antonio				
Memphis at Phoenix				
Milwaukee at Utah				
Charlotte at Portland				
Philadelphia at Sacramento				

Tuesday				
Bucks 94, Lakers 79				
MILWAUKEE — Antetokounmpo 3-7 2-2 8, Ilyasova 7-15 1-2 15, Sanders 3-8 1-4 7, Knight 15-25 4-6 37, Ridnour 5-11 0-0 11, Raduljica 1-3 0-0 2, Mayo 0-5 0-0 0, Middleton 2-7 0-0 5, Butler 0-1 0-0 0, Neal 4-9 0-0 9. Totals 40-91 8-14 94.				
L.A. LAKERS — Young 8-21 6-6 25, Williams 2-5 0-0 5, Gasol 9-23 7-10 25, Farmer 0-5 0-0 0, Meeks 2-9 0-0 4, Hill 2-5 0-0 4, Kelly 2-6 1-2 6, Marshall 4-7 0-0 10, Sacre 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 29-81 14-18 79.				
Milwaukee	23	19	32	20-94
L.A. Lakers	12	21	27	19-79
Three-Point Goals—Milwaukee 6-23 (Knight 3-8, Middleton 1-2, Neal 1-3, Ridnour 1-6, Butler 0-1, Ilyasova 0-1, Mayo 0-2), L.A. Lakers 7-24 (Young 3-8, Marshall 2-4, Kelly 1-3, Williams 1-4, Farmer 0-1, Meeks 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Milwaukee 64 (Ilyasova 12), L.A. Lakers 49 (Williams 11). Assists—Milwaukee 17 (Sanders 5), L.A. Lakers 18 (Marshall, Farmer 7). Total Fouls—Milwaukee 16, L.A. Lakers 20. Technicals—Sanders. Flagrant Fouls—Williams. A—18,997 (18,997).				

Kings 110, Rockets 106				
SACRAMENTO — Gay 9-19 6-6 25, Thompson 3-3 2-2 8, Cousins 7-13 3-4 17, Thomas 6-17 4-6 17, McLemore 5-12 1-2 13, Gray 0-0 0-0 0, Thornton 6-9 0-0 15, Williams 0-1 0-0 0, Outlaw 0-0 0-0 0, Fredette 4-8 2-2 10, Acy 2-3 1-1 5. Totals 42-85 19-23 110.				
HOUSTON — Parsons 5-11 2-6 13, Jones 6-10 0-0 12, Howard 5-9 5-11 15, Lin 7-10 0-0 14, Harden 12-26 9-10 38, Brooks 1-5 2-2 4, Casspi 2-7 1-2 6, Garcia 1-3 2-2 4. Totals 39-81 21-33 106.				
Sacramento	29	29	22	30-110
Houston	24	28	34	20-106
Three-Point Goals—Sacramento 7-22 (Thornton 3-5, McLemore 2-7, Gay 1-4, Thomas 1-4, Fredette 0-2), Houston 7-28 (Harden 5-11, Casspi 1-1, Parsons 1-7, Lin 0-2, Jones 0-2, Garcia 0-2, Brooks 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Sacramento 46 (Cousins 16), Houston 55 (Jones 11). Assists—Sacramento 22 (Thomas 10), Houston 16 (Lin 6). Total Fouls—Sacramento 26, Houston 23. Technicals—Thompson, Harden. A—18,232 (18,023).				

Pacers 91, Cavaliers 76				
CLEVELAND — Clark 2-11 2-2 7, Thompson 3-11 1-4 7, Varejao 5-13 4-6 14, Irving 3-9 4-4 10, Miles 2-5 1-1 5, Waiters 5-13 2-2 12, Zeller 3-5 1-2 7, Bennett 2-4 2-2 6, Jack 4-9 0-0 8, Sims 0-0 0-0 0, Gee 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 29-80 17-23 76.				
INDIANA — George 7-19 5-6 21, West 4-11 0-0 8, Hibbert 8-13 3-4 19, G.Hill 5-9 0-0 13, Stephenson 3-7 0-0 6, Granger 3-7 6-6 12, Scola 2-6 2-2 6, Watson 0-2 0-0 0, Mahinmi 2-3 2-4 6, Butler 0-0 0-0 0, Sloan 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 34-77 18-22 91.				
Cleveland	25	19	22	10-76
Indiana	23	18	24	26-91
Three-Point Goals—Cleveland 1-12 (Clark 1-5, Miles 0-1, Waiters 0-2, Irving 0-2, Jack 0-2), Indiana 5-25 (G.Hill 3-6, George 2-11, Watson 0-1, Stephenson 0-3, Granger 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Cleveland 57 (Thompson 13), Indiana 47 (Scola 9). Assists—Cleveland 15 (Jack 6), Indiana 22 (Stephenson 8). Total Fouls—Cleveland 22, Indiana 16. Technicals—Cleveland defensive three second. A—18,165 (18,165).				

Hawks 92, Celtics 91				
ATLANTA — Scott 4-12 0-0 8, Millsap 12-19 10-14 34, Brand 1-2 2-2 4, Teague 6-17 4-4 16, Korver 5-11 3-3 14, Antic 2-5 0-0 5, Williams 0-8 0-0 0, Mack 1-9 2-2 5, Schroder 0-0 0-0 0, Ayon 0-4 0-0 0, Martin 2-4 0-0 6. Totals 33-91 21-25 92.				
BOSTON — Green 4-10 0-0 8, Bass 2-6 5-6 9, Sullinger 1-6 0-0 2, Crawford 3-15 1-1 8, Bradley 2-10 4-4 8, Humphries 7-13 4-4 18, Lee 5-7 0-0 11, Pressey 0-1 0-0 0, Wallace 3-5 0-0 6, Olynyk 8-11 2-2 21. Totals 35-84 16-17 91.				
Atlanta	20	19	23	30-92
Boston	23	21	23	24-91
Three-Point Goals—Atlanta 5-29 (Martin 2-4, Antic 1-4, Mack 1-4, Korver 1-6, Millsap 0-1, Scott 0-3, Teague 0-3, Williams 0-4), Boston 5-20 (Olynyk 3-5, Lee 1-1, Crawford 1-7, Pressey 0-1, Wallace 0-1, Green 0-2, Bradley 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Atlanta 60 (Millsap 15), Boston 52 (Humphries, Sullinger 10). Assists—Atlanta 21 (Korver, Mack, Teague 5), Boston 28 (Crawford, Pressey, Olynyk 5). Total Fouls—Atlanta 15, Boston 22. Technicals—Boston defensive three second. A—18,624 (18,624).				

Spurs 113, Nets 92				
BROOKLYN — Pierce 5-11 2-2 13, Teletovic 4-9 2-2 12, Garnett 0-5 2-2 2, Williams 4-11 1-1 9, Johnson 4-8 0-0 9, Terry 0-0 0-0 0, Anderson 5-13 2-2 13, Plumlee 6-11 3-4 15, Kirilenko 2-2 0-1 4, Livingston 7-14 1-1 15, Shengelia 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 37-84 13-15 92.				
SAN ANTONIO — Leonard 3-6 0-0 6, Duncan 7-11 1-2 15, Splitter 3-6 6-6 12, Parker 4-7 9-9 18, Belinelli 4-6 0-1 10, Ginobili 3-8 6-6 15, Diaw 4-5 0-0 8, Green 1-3 0-0 3, Ayres 1-3 2-2 4, Mills 5-15 0-0 12, Bonner 0-1 0-0 0, Joseph 2-3 0-2 4, Baynes 3-4 0-0 6. Totals 40-78 24-28 113.				
Brooklyn	20	16	32	24-92
San Antonio	30	29	39	15-113
Three-Point Goals—Brooklyn 5-15 (Teletovic 2-3, Johnson 1-2, Pierce 1-3, Anderson 1-4, Livingston 0-1, Williams 0-2), San Antonio 9-20 (Ginobili 3-5, Belinelli 2-3, Mills 2-7, Parker 1-1, Green 1-1, Bonner 0-1, Leonard 0-1, Joseph 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Brooklyn 38 (Plumlee 13), San Antonio 53 (Ayres 8). Assists—Brooklyn 24 (Williams, Pierce 6), San Antonio 27 (Parker 6). Total Fouls—Brooklyn 24, San Antonio 17. Technicals—Brooklyn defensive three second 2. A—17,409 (18,797).				



SUE OGROCKI/AP

Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard, right, shoots as Thunder forward Serge Ibaka defends during the first quarter Tuesday.

Raptors 85, Bulls 79				
TORONTO — Ross 3-6 0-0 6, Johnson 1-4 7-8 9, Valanciunas 5-10 5-6 15, Lowry 4-10 2-4 13, DeRozan 3-12 5-7 11, Vasquez 4-9 0-0 9, Salmons 4-8 0-2 8, Patterson 4-7 2-2 10, Hansbrough 1-3 2-2 4. Totals 29-69 23-31 85.				
CHICAGO — Deng 6-15 4-5 16, Boozer 1-8 2-2 4, Noah 2-10 3-4 7, Hinrich 1-9 2-2 4, Butler 5-13 4-6 15, Gibson 6-13 0-0 12, Dunleavy 5-8 2-2 13, Augustin 3-4 0-0 6, Mohammed 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 30-82 17-21 79.				
Toronto	21	15	21	28-85
Chicago	16	26	20	17-79
Three-Point Goals—Toronto 4-14 (Lowry 3-8, Vasquez 1-2, Patterson 0-1, DeRozan 0-1, Ross 0-2), Chicago 2-9 (Dunleavy 1-1, Butler 1-2, Deng 0-2, Hinrich 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Toronto 50 (Valanciunas 9), Chicago 54 (Noah 16). Assists—Toronto 16 (Lowry 6), Chicago 17 (Noah 6). Total Fouls—Toronto 22, Chicago 21. Technicals—Chicago defensive three second. A—21,507 (20,917).				

Trail Blazers 98, Thunder 94				
PORTLAND — Batum 6-15 2-2 15, Aldridge 10-23 5-6 25, Lopez 5-8 2-2 12, Lillard 6-15 5-5 21, Matthews 5-16 4-4 16, Wright 0-2 0-0 0, Williams 2-7 0-2 5, Free-land 1-3 0-0 2, Leonard 1-2 0-0 2, Watson 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 36-91 18-21 98.				
OKLAHOMA CITY — Durant 12-26 10-12 37, Ibaka 8-14 1-2 17, Perkins 1-4 0-0 2, Jackson 5-13 2-4 12, Sefolosha 1-2 2-2 4, Collison 2-4 0-0 4, Fisher 1-4 2-2 4, Adams 1-4 2-2 4, Lamb 5-11 0-0 10, Jones 0-0 0-2 0. Totals 36-82 19-26 94.				
Portland	24	18	29	27-98
Oklahoma City	30	24	24	16-94
Three-Point Goals—Portland 8-33 (Lillard 4-10, Matthews 2-9, Williams 1-5, Batum 1-7, Wright 0-2), Oklahoma City 3-14 (Durant 3-9, Ibaka 0-1, Lamb 0-2, Fisher 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Portland 51 (Aldridge 14), Oklahoma City 60 (Durant 14). Assists—Portland 26 (Lillard 11), Oklahoma City 15 (Jackson 6). Total Fouls—Portland 22, Oklahoma City 20. Technicals—Ibaka. A—18,203 (18,203).				

Warriors 94, Magic 81				
GOLDEN STATE — Iguodala 3-6 0-0 8, Lee 11-15 0-0 22, Bogut 4-5 0-2 8, Curry 4-10 0-0 9, Thompson 7-12 0-0 15, Barnes 1-7 0-0 2, Green 3-5 0-0 6, Speights 3-10 4-10, Douglas 0-3 0-0 0, Bazemore 4-9 2-4 12, Kuzmich 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 41-85 6-10 94.				
ORLANDO — Harris 2-11 1-2 5, Davis 4-10 2-3 10, Vucevic 2-5 0-0 4, Nelson 4-11 0-0 11, Afflalo 7-18 1-3 15, Oladipo 3-7 2-2 8, Moore 1-4 0-0 3, O'Quinn 2-4 0-0 4, Nicholson 2-6 0-0 5, Harkless 2-4 1-1 5, Maxiell 4-5 0-0 8, Price 0-1 0-0 0, Lamb 1-3 1-2 3. Totals 34-89 8-13 81.				
Golden State	26	32	16	20-94
Orlando	15	20	24	22-81
Three-Point Goals—Golden State 6-27 (Bazemore 2-4, Iguodala 2-5, Curry 1-5, Thompson 1-5, Speights 0-1, Green 0-2, Barnes 0-2, Douglas 0-3), Orlando 5-19 (Nelson 3-7, Moore 1-1, Nicholson 1-3, Harkless 0-1, Harris 0-3, Afflalo 0-4). Rebounds—Golden State 64 (Bogut 11), Orlando 44 (Harris 9). Assists—Golden State 21 (Curry 8), Orlando 19 (Nelson 6). Total Fouls—Golden State 13, Orlando 13. Technicals—Golden State defensive three second. A—15,062 (18,500).				

Calendar				
Jan. 6 — 10-day contracts can be signed.				
Jan. 10 — Contracts guaranteed for rest of season.				



ALEX GALLARDO/AP

Lakers guard Jodie Meeks, left, collides with Bucks guard Giannis Antetokounmpo during the second half Tuesday in Los Angeles.

Roundup

Bucks hand Lakers sixth straight loss

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Milwaukee Bucks caught the Los Angeles Lakers in one of their worst ruts in decades and Brandon Knight was able to take full advantage.

Knight scored 18 of his career-high 37 points in the third quarter and the team with the NBA's worst record beat the injury-jinxed Lakers 94-79 on Tuesday night.

“My teammates did a great job of running the floor and running the lanes and creating plays for one another, and I think that opened it up for me and a lot of other guys,” Knight said. “But it started with our defense. We got after it. Part of that was them missing shots, but I want to give credit to our guys for contesting those shots.”

The Lakers ended the year the same way they began it — with six straight losses. They had never ended a calendar year with more than three consecutive defeats in any of the franchise's 65 previous seasons. Los Angeles will begin the new year 13-19 — the team's first losing record since the 2002-03 season, when they also started out 13-19 following their third straight championship.

The year was a distinctly sobering one for the Lakers, who mourned the passing of flamboyant owner Jerry Buss, longtime executive Bill Sharman and Vern Mikkelsen, who helped the team win four NBA titles in Minneapolis. They also got swept in the first round of the playoffs and had star-crossed Kobe Bryant in the lineup for only six games so far this season.

“I know an historic franchise like the Los Angeles Lakers will be fine,” said Bucks forward Caron Butler, who spent the 2004-05 season with the Lakers.

Pau Gasol and Nick Young scored 25 points each for the Lakers, who shot 35.8 percent from the field. Young, who led the team in scoring in each of the previous

six games as a reserve, made his seventh start of the season.

Gasol, who had missed three straight games and four of the previous six because of a sinus infection and bronchitis, returned to a talent-starved Lakers lineup already missing Bryant, Steve Nash and Steve Blake.

“We are down at the bottom,” said coach Mike D'Antoni, who used his eighth different starting lineup in as many games and 17th in 32 contests. “The injuries have torn everybody up, but we have to band together and figure it out. I thought Pau played hard, though he was rusty at first. He didn't look good in the first quarter, but then he picked it up.”

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Ohio St.
has big
reason
to focus

By TIM REYNOLDS
The Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Ohio State offensive lineman Corey Linsley needed about a week to get over the disappointment.

Given the stakes, that sounds fair.

If a play or two had been executed a bit better, then maybe Ohio State would have beaten Michigan State for the Big Ten title — and wrapped up a spot in the BCS national championship game. Instead, the seventh-ranked Buckeyes (12-1) not only tasted defeat for the first time in 705 days, but were knocked out of the title picture and wound up getting invited to the Orange Bowl.

As far as consolation prizes go, that's not exactly a rough one.

"It really stung, obviously," Linsley said. "I think I can speak for everybody on the team when I say it really stung. But with guys like this, with the character we have on this team ... it doesn't take a long duration of time to get over something like that. We know we're going to face bigger tests in life."

The next test awaiting Ohio State is No. 12 Clemson (10-2), which is back in the Orange Bowl for the second time in three seasons. And even though the crystal football is out of their reach, the Buckeyes insist there's plenty of reasons to be ready for Friday.

There's the not-so-small matter of going out winners, which is always a goal. A top-five ranking to finish the year would likely be within reach. On top of all that, a victory would make Ohio State 25-1 over Urban Meyer's two seasons in Columbus — matching the winningest two-year stretch in school history — plus make the coach 5-0 all-time in BCS games.

Over the past decade — when teams playing up to 14 games in a season has become more and more commonplace — the only programs to go 25-1 or better in a two-year span are Southern Cal, Boise State and TCU.

"That's a lot of wins, isn't it?" asked Ohio State offensive lineman Jack Mewhort, smiling.



Orange Bowl
Ohio St. (12-1) vs. Clemson (10-2)
AFN-Sports
2:30 a.m. Saturday CET
10:30 a.m. Saturday JKT



JAMIE MARTIN/AP

Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel (2) is chased by Duke linebacker Kelby Brown (59) and nose tackle Jamal Bruce (91) during the first half of the Chick-fil-A Bowl on Tuesday in Atlanta. No. 20 Texas A&M won 52-48 in what could be Manziel's final game at Texas A&M.

Bowl roundup

Johnny Football does it again

Manziel rallies Texas A&M to comeback victory against Duke

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — If this was Johnny Manziel's last college game he lived up to his nickname.

Johnny Football led No. 20 Texas A&M to another comeback win, 52-48 over No. 22 Duke on Tuesday night in the Chick-fil-A Bowl at the Georgia Dome.

The Aggies were down 38-17 at halftime, but with Manziel at the helm, they came back in the highest-scoring game in the bowl's history.

Playing in what might be his final college game, the 2012 Heisman trophy winner threw four touchdown passes, completed 30 of 38 passes for 382 yards and ran for 73 yards and a touchdown.

"I was in a zone I haven't been in before," Manziel said. "Ever. I just wanted this game."

Was it the last college game for the third-year sophomore who is widely projected as a first-round pick if he decides to enter the NFL Draft? He wasn't ready to talk about his decision after the game.

"I can't even talk about anything other than this game," Manziel said. "This was unreal. ... I haven't made (the decision) yet. I'm in the moment right now."

Asked if this would be a perfect way to cap his college career, Manziel said: "I don't know. It's an unreal feeling, I know that. The way these guys fought, it was unreal. I'm proud of them."

Toney Hurd Jr. returned an interception 55 yards that gave Texas A&M (9-4) its first lead with 3:33 remaining. It was the game's first turnover.

Duke (10-4) took a 41-31 lead into the fourth quarter. The Blue Devils couldn't hold off the comeback and are still looking for their first bowl win since beating Arkansas 7-6 in the 1961 Cotton Bowl.

Sun Bowl

No. 17 UCLA 42, Virginia Tech 12: Brett Hundley threw two touchdown passes and ran for two more scores to help the Bruins rout the Hokies in El Paso, Texas.

The UCLA quarterback had 86- and 7-yard touchdown runs and finished with 161 yards on 10 carries. Hundley also completed 16 of 29 passes for 226 yards and two scores.

Hundley and UCLA linebacker Jordan Zumwalt shared MVP honors. Zumwalt had 10 tackles and returned an interception 43 yards to set up a touchdown.

The Bruins (10-3) outscored the Hokies (8-5) 28-2 in the fourth quarter.

After Virginia Tech cut it to 14-10 on Michael Branthover's 22-yard field goal with 3:53 left in the third quarter, UCLA answered with a 12-play, 85-yard drive, capped by Paul Perkins' 5-yard run early in the fourth.

Advocate V100 Bowl

Arizona 42, Boston College 19: At Shreveport, La., B.J. Denker threw for 275 yards and two touchdowns, Ka'Deem Carey rushed for 169 yards and two touchdowns and the Wildcats had an easy time against the Eagles.

Arizona (8-5) never trailed, leading 21-6 by halftime and 42-6 early in the fourth quarter. Carey had his 16th straight game with at least

100 yards rushing while Denker added a 14-yard touchdown run.

The game was billed as a matchup between two of the nation's top running backs — Arizona's Carey and Boston College's Andre Williams. But the duel between AP All-America first-team selections was one-sided.

Williams, who won the Doak Walker Award over Carey, was held to 75 yards rushing and a touchdown. Boston College (7-6) didn't score a touchdown until Williams' 4-yard run early in the fourth quarter.

Arizona's Nate Phillips caught nine passes for 193 yards while redshirt freshman Trey Griffey — the son of former baseball star Ken Griffey Jr. — caught two touchdown passes.

Liberty Bowl

Mississippi State 44, Rice 7: At Memphis, Tenn., Dak Prescott threw three touchdown passes and ran for two more scores and the Bulldogs trounced the Owls in the most one-sided victory in the game's 55-year history.

Mississippi State (7-6) wrapped up its fourth straight winning season and prevented Rice (10-4) from winning bowl games in back-to-back years for the first time.

Prescott accounted for five touchdowns to set a Liberty Bowl record. He was 17-for-28 for 283 yards and ran for 78 yards on 14 carries.

Mississippi State's Jameon Lewis caught nine passes for 220 yards to break the Liberty Bowl receiving record of 201 set by Houston's Vincent Marshall against South Carolina in 2006.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



MATT STRASEN/AP

Navy players celebrate their 24-6 win Monday over Middle Tennessee in the Armed Forces Bowl in Fort Worth, Texas. The Midshipmen won for just the second time in their last seven bowl games.

Reynolds leads Navy to bowl rout

The Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Keenan Reynolds has two more seasons at Navy and a chance to join another select group of players.

A half-century after Hall of Famer and two-time Super Bowl champion Roger Staubach won the Heisman Trophy playing for the Midshipmen, their current quarterback is now only the fourth player to rush for more than 30 touchdowns in a season.

Reynolds ran for two more TDs, giving the sophomore 31 this year, and Navy ended the season with a 24-6 victory over Middle Tennessee on Monday in the Armed Forces Bowl.

Already with the NCAA record for touchdowns rushing by a quarterback, Reynolds put Navy (9-4) ahead to stay with a 3-yard score to cap the opening drive of the game. He added a 1-yarder in the fourth quarter, his 31st to match Colorado State running back Kapri Bibbs for the national lead.

Only Barry Sanders (37) with Oklahoma State, and Wisconsin's Montee Ball (33) have run for more scores in a season.

"It's huge. You just say the name Barry Sanders and you can stop right there," Reynolds said. "He probably was the greatest college player there was. Just to be even in that conversation with guys like that is a humbling experience. I never thought I would be in that category."

Navy ran on 67 of its 74 plays and piled up 366 yards rushing while winning its fifth consecutive game. Reynolds had 20 carries for 86 yards, and eight other players had multiple carries — half of them gaining at least 37 yards. DeBrandon Sanders ran 41 yards for a score on the second play after an interception in the fourth quarter.

"That's a great testament to who we are. Just we're an unselfish team," Navy coach Ken Niumatalolo said. "We're going to

take what people give us. It's kind of been our thing all year. There are a lot of guys that carry the ball, and we're an unselfish team. Everybody knows if it's their turn to carry the ball, they're going to do the best they can."

But when asked what makes Navy's triple-option work so well, Niumatalolo pointed at Reynolds.

"It's hard to simulate on a scout team what Navy does," Blue Raiders coach Rick Stockstill said.

Middle Tennessee (8-5) was held to a season low in points and without a touchdown for the only time. That was after a five-game winning streak when it averaged nearly 43 points a game — since a 34-7 loss on Oct. 12 at North Texas, about 40 miles away from the TCU campus where the bowl was played.

"This was the first time we kept a team completely out of the end zone. It was huge to finish like this," senior linebacker Cody Peterson said.

Underdog Sooners not afraid of Tide

By KURT VOIGT
The Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Gabe Lynn understands if Oklahoma is considered an overwhelming underdog in the Sugar Bowl against Alabama.

Just don't expect the senior safety to react with such understanding when asked if the No. 11 Sooners are "scared" of the Crimson Tide — a question several teammates have been peppered with since the bowl selections were announced Dec. 8.

"Nobody's asked me that, but [they've] kind of talked about how they're such a great team or whatever [and] how we can't play with them," Lynn said. "I've heard stuff like that, but I haven't heard anything like, 'We're scared of them.' Because we're definitely not scared of them."

Oklahoma (10-2), a 16-point underdog, will have its chance to prove worthy of a BCS bowl selection on Thursday when it takes on third-ranked Alabama (11-1).

The game carries with it plenty of intrigue simply because of the presence of the Crimson Tide — winners of three of the last four national championships and the premier program in college football since coach Nick Saban's arrival in 2007.

Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops made sure of that as far back as last spring when he challenged the notion that the Southeastern Conference — which has fielded the last seven national champions — is the most complete league in the country.

Stoops called some of the stories about SEC supremacy "propaganda." He followed that by taking a jab at SEC defenses this



Oklahoma (10-2)
vs. Alabama (11-1)
AFN-Sports
2:30 a.m. Friday CET
10:30 a.m. Friday JKT

season, all of which made for quality radio and Internet material.

Stoops has lost three games in a row to SEC teams, including a Sugar Bowl loss to LSU after the 2003 season and to Florida in the national championship game after the 2008 season. He's 3-4 overall against the league, with the latest loss coming against Texas A&M in last season's Cotton Bowl.

The last SEC team Stoops and Oklahoma beat was Alabama — doing so in back-to-back regular-season games during the 2002 and 2003 seasons.

Of course, that was the pre-Saban Crimson Tide, and the games were also the last time the Sooners played an SEC team during the regular season.

Oklahoma center Gabe Ikard knows few expect the Sooners to win or even stay close.

Ikard still considers Alabama the "best team in college football," and now he'd love to shock the country.

"Alabama's been the king of college football, so they deserve all that respect," Ikard said. "Now it's up to us to go down there and play them well and go get our Sugar Bowl victory."

Final: With no title on the line, McCarron still looking to impress

FROM BACK PAGE

What do you give the quarterback who seems to have everything? The benefit of the doubt, perhaps. Alabama won't get another chance to prove it on the field after losing to No. 2 Auburn to close the regular season.

McCarron has already led the Tide (11-1) to two national championships and been part of a third. He's won 36 games in three seasons as a starter, an Alabama record and seventh-most in NCAA annals for a starting quarterback.

Individually, he won the Maxwell Award for college football's player of the year and the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award as the top senior quarterback. He was runner-up to Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston for the Heisman Trophy.

"The guy's fabulous," Sooners coach Bob Stoops said. "He throws a great ball. He's intelligent in how he plays. He manages the game. He's a leader for their team. He makes very few mistakes. He throws the football well to some great receivers."

"He's all you want in a quarterback."

And at one point, however briefly, McCarron wanted to play for Oklahoma, the team he's finishing his career against.

"It's crazy, because the night before I decided to pick the school, I was gonna sign with Oklahoma, so it's just crazy that I'm playing them," he said.

"I just liked their football. And then you had (quarterback) Sam Bradford there, so during recruiting as a 17-, 18-year-old, your mind changes about 20 times a day. At the moment, I guess they were just the hot school that I wanted to go to. I'm pretty sure I probably before that night thought about a bunch of other schools, too."

Things have worked out quite well for both McCarron and the Tide.

He'll leave with a number of Alabama records, including career passing yards (8,632), touchdowns (75) and completion percentage (67.0). McCarron just won't go out with a three-peat.

"AJ has done a fantastic job here for us," Tide coach Nick Saban said. "I'd like to see AJ have the opportunity to play well in his last game, for the team to have success. I'm sure he's a little disappointed that we are

where we are. I think that he's had a great career here. He's certainly won some marvelous awards that have recognized the career that he's had here.

"I think he's going to have a great future as a football player. I'd just really like to see it end the right way for him here in terms of his performance and our team's performance."

The only previous time in McCarron's career Alabama didn't win the title was the 2010 season, when he was Greg McElroy's backup. The Tide blew out No. 7 Michigan State 49-7 in the Capital One Bowl and is 36-3 since.

McCarron said he's not treating this game as a chance to improve his NFL Draft stock.

"I'm committed to this team," he said. "That's my job. Play my game and play the best I can for us. Whatever happens, happens in the future. I'm pretty sure if (ESPN draft analyst) Mel Kiper thinks I'm fourth round still, then one game isn't going to change his mind."

"There's nothing I can do but play for my team."



VASHA HUNT, AL.COM/AP

Alabama quarterback AJ McCarron practices Tuesday in New Orleans.

SPORTS



Eagles focus on Saints
after turnaournd

NFL, Page 24

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

His final statement

Alabama's McCarron eager to end college career with stellar Sugar Bowl outing

By JOHN ZENOR
The Associated Press

ALABAMA's AJ McCarron hasn't modified his goals all that much going into his Alabama finale. The third-ranked Crimson Tide's quarterback wants to end one more season on top, if only in the minds of as many college football fans as possible. He's collected the final crystal trophy of his career, but hopes the senior class will leave with one more huge statement in the Sugar Bowl against No. 11 Oklahoma.

"We put a lot of work into this program to make it what it is today," McCarron said. "It's only right we finish out on top. We still have a chance for a 12-win season, Sugar Bowl championship, which is huge. It's a BCS bowl. Not a lot of teams in Alabama history have won 12 games.

"Not only that, I saw something someone sent me, that Vegas said if we played Florida State or Auburn again we'd still be favored in points. So we have a chance to show the country we are the best team. We might not win the national championship, but we can have everyone talking about us more than the national championship team. And that's happened in the past."

SEE FINAL ON PAGE 31

Inside:

- Reynolds leads Navy to bowl win, Page 31
- Manziel rallies A&M past Duke, Page 30

Alabama quarterback
AJ McCarron
VASHA HUNT, AL.COM/AP

2014 looks to offer plenty of sports intrigue | Page 25

